

GOD IS _____

Part 3: God is Relational

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March 22 & 23, 2014

How would you describe God?

What comes into our mind when we think about God
is the greatest thing about us.

- A.W. Tozer

God is relational.

God is relational in creation (*Genesis 3*)

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day... - *Genesis 3:8a*

God is relational through his covenants (*Genesis 12-17*)

"I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."

But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"

He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. - *Genesis 15:7-11*

Ancient Covenants: The greater party in a covenant was saying to the lesser party: "I'm in, no matter what, even if it costs me my life."

God is relational in The Law (*Exodus 19-20*)

Before he gave Moses the 10 Commandments, God said: "I am the Lord your God."

The commandments are not a condition of the relationship.

The commandments are a confirmation of the relationship.

God is relational through the prophets (*Isaiah 53*)

"Yet it was the LORD'S will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities." - *Isaiah 53:10-11*

God is relational through Jesus (*John 19*)

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. - *John 19:28-30*

Jesus guarantees relationship with God.

The future with God is also relational

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

- *Revelation 21:1-5*

Three places we might be:

1. Convinced that God is relational
2. God is relational except with me
3. Living off past memories or borrowed faith

Join the Conversation

Text your "God is _____" answer or your question about this topic to 781-CTK-TEXT (781-285-8398) or email godis@ctkbellingham.com or use #ctkgodis on Twitter or Facebook.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Who in your life would you describe as a highly relational person? What attitudes, actions, or characteristics make that person relational? (for example: friendly, warm, talkative, caring, good listener, etc.)
- 2) With those attitudes, actions, or characteristics of a relational person in mind, how would you compare your view of God as a relational being?
- 3) It's been said that rules without relationship leads to rebellion. Have you experienced this principle in your family, your job, or in a church? Describe one situation to the group.
- 4) Of the "three places we might be" (listed above) which best describes you? Why?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?