

RELATIONAL THEOLOGY SERIES FOUR
THE GOD WHO WANTS TO KNOW OUR HEARTS

Dr. Roger Barrier
I Jn. 2:12-14; Eph. 2:12-18

Why is George Washington called, “The Father of Our Country?”

What are the implications of Jesus teaching us to begin our prayers with the words: “Our Father?” Could it be that Jesus is portraying a God who longs to be caringly involved in our lives?

Three spiritual levels are enunciated in 1 John 2:12-14. We see here not just a progression in spiritual growth; we see here a growth in the depths of intimacy in our relationships with God.

CHILDREN: KNOWING SECURITY AND PEACE WITH THE FATHER

Children know that their sins are forgiven. Peace with God is achieved at the Cross.

Children know that God is their Father. Relationship with God is restored at the cross.

The cross removes both the aloneness (Genesis 2) and fallenness (Genesis 3) which result from sin.
Read Ephesians 2:12-18.

Children are very self-conscious. The whole world seems to center around them. Most Christian children never grow out of this stage. They don’t understand well the things of God. They think they know how God works but they have little real understanding at all. They know God all right, but it is only on their terms.

God can’t reveal much of Himself to children. They are not spiritually ready. Why: Because of the principle of enmeshment.

The whole idea behind this passage is that God wants to have a relationship with us. Is it fair to say that God doesn’t want to be alone? Remember Genesis 2:18 when God said to Adam: “It is not good to be alone?” How did God know that? Perhaps He knew because He once experienced what aloneness was like—that is why He created the universe. We often have a very rational view of an omnipotent God who has no needs. But, remember that God is a God of love. He needs someone to love.

What does it do to your heart to know that God wants a relationship with you?

Children know what to believe. They have their doctrine straight. This is the first purpose of Truth.

YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN: LEARNING SKILLS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Young men and women are learning about the power and character of the God with whom they now have a deepening relationship. They are discovering that He is a strong conquering God of life, love and power.

Young men and women are experiencing God’s power over the Evil One.

Young men and women are growing strong.

Young men and women know the Word of God.

We cannot learn everything from reading the Bible. We have to experience it. We must learn to fight spiritual battles. We must discover what it is like to hear God speak in our inner spirits.

Young men and women know how to behave. They know the right morals and ethics. This is the second purpose of Truth.

MOTHERS AND FATHERS: EXPERIENCING INTIMACY WITH GOD

The three Hebrew words for intimacy enlighten us into the relationship God wants to have with us:

“Yada” = “To Know”: God knows us (Jeremiah 1:5).

“Sod” = “To Disclose”: God allows us to know Him (Proverbs 3:32).

By the way, God wants us to know His heart. What does it do to your heart to know that God wants to open His heart and allow us to come in?

“Sakan” = “Deep, Caring Involvement”: God wants to know us so that He desires be caringly involved in our lives (Psalm 139:3).

What if God wanted to be one of your most intimate friends?

Intimacy is someone who enters into our world and feels what we feel, and experiences what we experience, and knows us like we know ourselves.

The most easy to remember verse in the Bible (John 11:35: “Jesus wept.”) is a verse about a God who weeps. What does this teach us about the heart of God as He relates with us?

Mothers and Fathers know intimacy with God. This is the third and often forgotten purpose of Truth.

Meditate for a moment on the implications of Jesus desiring a relationship with us based on Revelation 3:20.