

# What is Your Relationship to God Based Upon?

Intro:

1. God wants a close personal relationship with you.
  - a. Adam & Eve walked with God in the cool of the day (**Gen 3:8-9**).
  - b. Then they rebelled & ate the forbidden fruit (**Gen 3:6**).
  - c. You & I have followed after their example (**Rom 3:10-12 & 23**).
5. God had to expel them from His presence (**Gen 3:23**).
  - a. God provided a way for us to return (**Jn 3:16-17**).
  - b. When we respond by faith, He will restore us (**Col 1:22**).
8. Once you are restored, you can begin building that relationship again.

*Colossians 2:8-19*

## I. v8, 16-18 - Extremes on Which Not to Base Your Relationship

### A. v8 - Modernism & Liberalism.

1. In that day - was seen in some socially minded Gentile Christians.
2. In our day - such an emphasis on helping needy people that you focus less on the Word of God.
  - a. Teach that only some of the Bible contains the Word of God.
  - b. Teach that an idea must be logical & fit in with scientific thinking to be true.
  - c. Teach that all scripture must be interpreted in the light of current scholarly thinking.
  - d. Teach that if you believe any religion strong enough you will get to heaven.
  - e. Teach that what's really important is social action; helping mankind better himself.
  - f. Teach that faith is what you do, not what you believe. (This is only half true!)
3. The warning.
  - a. Philosophy - the principles of this world - is "hollow & deceptive".
  - b. **Takes you captive** (συλαγωγέω) = carries you off as spoil. **ILL: The Romans made slaves of their captives.**

### B. v16-18 - Legalism.

1. In that day - was seen in the Jewish Christians.
2. In our day - such concentration on the Word of God that you focus less on ministry to people in need.
  - a. Teach that since the Bible is inspired, every principle in it is a command to be obeyed or you lose your salvation.
  - b. Teach that their interpretation of a Bible passage is always the correct one. If you see it differently, you're wrong!
  - c. Teach a judgmental emphasis on little things - they major in minors!
  - d. Teach that faith is what you believe intellectually, not what you do. (This is only half true!)
3. The warning.
  - a. **v16-17** - The commands of the Law were only a shadow leading up to Christ.
  - b. Lord Jesus **canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.** - v14.
  - c. **v18** - Judgmentalism makes you a **disqualifier** (καταβραβεύω) = lit. an umpire who is against the players of the game.
  - d. **v18** - You can become **puffed up** (φουσιόω) = inflated with hot air.
  - e. **Rom 12:3** - **For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.**

## II. v9-15, 19 - The Reality on Which to Base Your Relationship

### A. v9-10 - Lord Jesus is God!

1. **Fullness** (πλήρωμα) = to cram full. God was crammed into Jesus' physical body.
2. **v10** - God has also crammed into you (same word) His Holy Spirit. The promise is in **Acts 2:38**  
**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

### B. Christian baptism is like Jewish circumcision.

1. Circumcision was the sign of God's covenant relationship with the Jewish nation.
  - a. Every Jewish male child was circumcised to identify personally with that covenant.
  - b. Circumcision initiated him into the Jewish faith
2. **v11** - Baptism is called:
  - a. **A putting off of the sinful nature** - (KJV) **a putting off of the flesh!**
  - b. It was not done by the hands of men but by Christ.
3. The result of baptism is like the result of circumcision.
  - a. **v12** - Where circumcision officially identified a person with the Law, the act of baptism officially identifies you with the Lord Jesus & His redemptive story.
  - b. **v13** - Before your baptism, you were considered uncircumcised, dead in sins & unforgiven.
  - c. **v13** - When God circumcised you through your baptism, He made you alive & forgave your sins.
  - d. **v14** - Whereas circumcision officially identifies a person with the written code (the law), it was nailed to the cross in relationship to you after you are baptized.
4. So - baptism is your circumcision - it gives you a new relationship with God!
  - a. Before your baptism you were:
    - (1) A body of flesh ("sinful nature") - **v11**.
    - (2) Dead in your sins - **v13**.
    - (3) In bondage to the legal demands of the written code - **v14**.
  - b. **v12** - When you were buried with Christ:
    - (1) You experienced a circumcision made without hands - **v11**.
    - (2) You experienced a putting off of the body of flesh - **v11**.
    - (3) You experienced the circumcision of Christ - **v11**.
    - (4) The legal demands of the written code were nailed to His cross - **v14**.
    - (5) The spiritual principalities & authorities which were against you were disarmed - **v15**.
  - c. **v12** - When you were raised with Him through faith:
    - (1) He made you alive with Him - **v13**.
    - (2) Your sins were forgiven - **v13**.

Your relationship to God is based upon who the Lord Jesus is & what He did for you on the cross. Identifying with Him in baptism, like the Jews identified with the Law in circumcision, through your faith, makes you a new child of God!