

Relationship?

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Brethren, we read in our Bible where God is urging us to have good and best relationship with him. That how we ought to be as we are continue serving him.

Who had the best relationship with God in the Old Testament? Was it Abraham or Moses? I believe that it was neither one! Yes, they both had a great relationship with Yahweh, but someone else had a better one. Who was he? Before Genesis 3 became past tense, Adam and Eve enjoyed a better relationship than either Abraham or Moses! They walked and talked with Yahweh “*without sin!*” People like Abraham? Not even close. Moses? Behind Abraham a few meters!

Apparently, Yahweh appeared in finite form to this original pairs, so they knew he was coming for His coming walk and attempted to hide from Him (Gen. 3:8). Sin motivates these two to experience the failure of their attempted impossibility! Can we visualize what sinlessness is like? They possessed it until engaging in conversation with Satan’s parasite in Genesis 3:1-5. “*Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, yea hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day that ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods knowing good and evil.*” (Gen. 3:1-5). Their perfection was shed during their dialogue with the serpent as they fasted upon his deception and developed a finite desire to be infinite (v. 5). Here we see Adam surrendered leadership to develop follow ship and lost his fellowship with God. Yet, prior to that Genesis 3 episode, they had the most outstanding relationship anyone could dream about prior to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus!

On the day of Pentecost, a question interrupted Pater’s inspired message (Acts 2:37). The apostle answered but did not give an immediate invitation. When he did, it was stated in one breath minus an invitation song, “*Be saved from this perverse generation*” (Acts 2:40). It was not repeated, yet about three thousand responded and desired baptism (V. 41). Without a church building or an inside baptistry, it was accomplished in what was left of that day. No one was questioned about his status, nor was any Pharisee admonished to renounce his religious party. They were added to the

saved by God Himself (Vs. 41, 47). As the God of all creation added, several things happened:

- They had been immersed into Jesus' death, burial and resurrection before the addition and that is what we are told to do before we become Christians (Rom. 6:1-6).
- They were immersed to put on Jesus (Gal. 3:26-27).
- They were made alive and forgiven just as we are (Col. 3:13).
- Paul told the error ridden the Corinthians church that they were the "*body of Christ*" (1 Cor. 12:27). Just as we are.
- They were "*raised up with him through faith in the working of God*" (Col. 2:12).
- They were delivered "*from power of darkness*" and translated "*into the kingdom of His dear Son.*" (Col. 2:13).
- In that kingdom they were redeemed "*through his blood*" and received "*the forgiveness of sins*" (Col. 2:14).
- They were members of "*his body*" which Jesus was "*the head*" (Eph. 1:22-23).
- God dwelt in each one because each added person became His "*temple*" (1 Cor. 3:16-17).
- Each added individual was "*bought with a price*" (1 Cor. 6:20).
- Each added person was now "*dead to sin*" and no longer subject to its reward (Rom. 6:2, 22-23; 8:1).
- Each was now a new creature in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17).
- Each now enjoyed the "*righteousness of God*" because Jesus had taken all their sins and ours upon himself (2 Cor. 5:21).

Therefore, we too have a better relationship than that which was enjoyed by Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, and all others who lived prior to the Acts 2 the day of Pentecost!

If you are among those who have been "*added,*" "*Rejoice*" and I say, "*Rejoice*" (Phil. 4:4).

Katoro – Geita, Church of Christ,
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