

Drawing Near to God - Jas 4:8

- *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:8*
- Why do we have to take the initiative?
- God can't get any closer than we allow.
- How important is our friendship/relationship with God to us?
- How we feel about God is based on our understanding of how He feels about us
- If we can't get close to Him we don't try.
- Is it even possible?

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- **Enoch** *walked with God and he was not for God took him* Gen. 5:24
- **Noah** *“found favor” in his sight* Gen. 6:8
- **Abraham** *“my friend”* Isa. 41:8; Jas. 2:23
- **Moses** *“faithful in all my house”* Heb. 3:5
- **David** *“man after God’s own heart”* 1S. 13:14
- **Daniel** - *“You are greatly beloved”* Dan 10:11
- **Job** *“None like him in the earth”* Job 1:8
- **God is no respecter of persons** Acts 10:34
- If we draw near to God can we have it too?

The Gospel A Ministry of Reconciliation

- For **while we were still weak**, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but **God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**. 9 Since, therefore, we have **now been justified by his blood, much more** shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For **if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life**. Rom 5:6-11

God Showed His love for us

- While still **weak**, Christ died for the ungodly
- While still **sinners**, Christ died for us
- Now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.
- While **enemies** reconciled to God much more, are reconciled, be saved by his life.
- We rejoice in God through Jesus Christ, through whom we have received reconciliation.

The Gospel A Ministry of Reconciliation

*Now all things are of God, who has **reconciled** us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the **ministry of reconciliation**, 19 that is, that God was in Christ **reconciling** the world to Himself, **not imputing their trespasses** to them, and has **committed to us the word of reconciliation** 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God.** 2Cor 5:18-20*

Reconciliation

- *katallasso* ... in Greek marriage records *apallassesthai* is a technical term for the separation of married couples, so *katallassesthai* is used for their "reconciliation" Kittel TDWNT
- *katallasso* reestablish proper friendly interpersonal relations after these have been disrupted or broken (the componential features of this series of meanings involve (1) disruption of friendly relations because of (2) presumed or real provocation, (3) overt behavior designed to remove hostility, and (4) restoration of original friendly relations) - 'to reconcile, to make things right with one another, reconciliation.' Lou & Nida

- Sin separated estranged friendship Isa 59:1-2
- Jesus purchased reconciliation Rom 5; 2Cor 5;
- Justified by faith have peace with God Rom 5:1
- ***Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. John 15:13-16***

Changing a Stranger into a Friend

- First day of school – Everyone a stranger.
- Some change to friends... How?
- Found mutual interests, cares or goals.
- Develop trust confide hopes, dreams fears.
- Invest time /effort to keep relationship warm
- Make sacrifices and bear burdens.
- Exchange compliments, sorrows and joys.
- Works in marriage, friendship and brethren
- **CAN THIS WORK WITH GOD?**

A Ministry of Reconciliation

● For **while we were still weak**, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but **God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**. 9 Since, therefore, we have **now been justified by his blood, much more** shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For **if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, NOW THAT WE ARE RECONCILED**, shall we be saved by his life. Rom 5:6-11

God Wants us to be Friends

- Our father Abraham my friend forever 2Chr 20:7
- Friendship with God develops like all other relationships
- God speaks & reveals himself in the material creation (Ps 19:1-2; Rom 1:20; Job 38-41)
- We already have much in common since we were created in His own image and likeness. Gen 1:26-27; Acts 17:29
- *This is my Father's world and to my listening ears, all nature sings and round me rings... he speaks to me everywhere (Song #669).*

Drawing near to God

- God is more fully revealed in his word.
- We learn of his power, feelings and will. Rom 11:33-36; Eph. 3:20
- Through prayer we express love, adoration, gratitude.
- God expressed his love for us, his plans to bless us and his continued help.
- This opens the door to drawing near to God
- But the rest is up to us.
- *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:8*

Drawing Near to God

- *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16-17*
- *For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 1 Th. 5:9-10*

Drawing Near to God

- *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Eph 2:8-10

- How do we draw near to God?
- We see his handiwork and blessings.
- We read the Scriptures to listen to him.
- We pray to talk to him.
- We worship and glorify him.
- We sacrifice, serve and obey him.