

“CONNECTING UPWARD”

JOHN 15:9-17

We're blessed in this life to have many relationships along the way. From neighborhood friends to college roommates to work associates to church acquaintances, we were truly created as relational beings. Yet there's one bond we have that should immeasurably exist above all the others.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

① P _____ (15:9-11)

A. Exercise _____ (15:9)

God supplies us with what we need to _____ the two great commandments.

B. Be _____ (15:10)

Instead of looking for ways around His commands we ought to simply follow His commands.

C. Live _____ (15:11)

It can even be experienced when _____ is really hard (Hebrews 12:2).

② P _____ (15:12-15)

Not only did He not take His life and neither did anyone take His life but He _____ His life as He offered Himself up as the one and only acceptable sacrifice for the sins of humanity.

This is the permanent state of new _____.

As a true friend, He will share with His disciples the amazing truths (15:26; 16:20,23; 17:9,12,22,23) and the difficult truths (15:19,20; 16:2,20,33).

③ P _____ (15:16)

We bring absolutely _____ to the table in the selection process of God.

In fact, He chooses ordinary, unspectacular people (Luke 6:13; 1 Corinthians 1:27-28; James 2:5).

When did He undertake this task of choosing us? Before the _____ of _____ began (Eph. 1:4-5).

Into our hardened and unbelieving hearts He breathed in _____ which enables us to respond to the good news that Jesus Christ came to die for our sins and set us free from condemnation (Eph. 2:8-9).

Jesus _____ on this earth for thirty-ish years. But for the last two thousand years He has _____ through us on this earth.

CONCLUSION

All your earthly relationships fall far short of this one of eternal implications with the Governor of the universe. And yet, consider just how much time you invest in these earthly relationships compared to your eternal relationship. Is it time to make some changes?

Your three-dimensional relationship with God is worth it. There truly is nothing else like it in this world!