

SERMON OUTLINE

3745 Market St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Sunday Morning 5/18/08

“A Relationship with God”

I. Topic to be Discussed

A. Strong relationships are a challenge. Constant effort, selflessness, and true love are a constant requirement. A relationship with God has added challenges.

B. Let's see how we can build a relationship with God

II. Steps in Building Our Relationship with God

A. Grow to appreciate God's love for you as an individual

1. 1 John 4:9-10 - God starts this relationship (not us)

2. God wants us with Him: Psalm 27:7-8; Jeremiah 33:2-3; Matthew 11:28-30.

3. Our insecurities and fears (God couldn't love me) - so many people - why ME? Luke 15:1-2; Luke 7:36-50; Luke 19:10

B. Open the door, God is knocking

1. Revelation 3:20 - "Behold, I stand at the door and knock..."

2. Are we listening to the voice of Jesus?

a. Psalm 19:1 - creation - day to day pours forth speech

b. 2 Kings 22:10-11 - Josiah finds the word - changes

c. Psalm 119:11 - The word meditated upon - heart

d. 1 Samuel 25:32 - The relations/events in life

e. Hebrews 1:1-2 - Through getting to know Jesus - God

C. Be honest, open, and vulnerable

1. Maybe biggest key to strong relationships: 1 John 1:9-10

2. Comes out in our prayers

a. Psalms are open hearts to God

(1) Psalm 109:6-13 - may they suffer for their evil

(2) Psalm 22:1-2 - Why have you forsaken me?

(3) Psalm 51:6 - You desire truth in the innermost being

b. Luke 18:9-14 - the Pharisee and tax-collector's prayers

D. See God's perspective

1. Jeremiah 9:23-24 - understand God

2. Understand the why of God

E. Connect with Him through others

1. How do we interact with Him

2. Matthew 25:34-40 - "You did it to Me"

III. Conclusion

Relationships are tough - work at it, trade for it