

“The LORD Is My Portion”

Keeping Purity in Emotional Relationships

Introduction

- Emotional stability is a much sought after goal (and a multimillion dollar industry!).
- More often than not, our emotional stability revolves around our relationships with other people. Many of the “negative” emotions arise out of our interactions with other people (e.g. depression, loneliness, love self-esteem, anger, jealousy, etc.)

Some Questions:

- Have you ever felt unappreciated? Does the fact that you believe that your pet appreciates you *really* help when you feel that people take you for granted? (Heb 6:10)
- Have you ever wanted to be needed?
- Have you ever been around someone who “needed” you so much that it made you uncomfortable?
- Life’s closest relationships are *supposed* to be the most stable. Have you ever been disappointed by a father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, or friend?
- Have you ever been disappointed by an authority figure such as a government official, a teacher, or a church leader?
- Since all personal relationships we are involved in involve us, how are we to keep them pure?

We are going to examine the correct flow of emotional relationship. We shall see that as we seek the LORD’s face as our source of mercy, acceptance, and love we will be able to love one another in purity without idolatry.

I. The LORD is my Provider

- He is the source of my material stability.

1. YHWH-Jireh

Gen 22:14

So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." NIV

We know the LORD sees and provides. He knows what we need before we even ask Him.

2. He supplies all our needs

Phil 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. KJV¹

¹ All references are from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

God is the supplier. Regardless of the delivery system (in this case the saints in Phillippi, see verse 18), God is the source. We get into a world of trouble when we begin to look at the delivery system as the supply source!

1 Tim 6:5-8

5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

A true, vital, spiritual relationship with God is the real source of material gain. When we know we have Him, we know we can be content.

3. We work for Him

Col 3:22-24

22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Problems in employment go away when we realize who the Boss is. And the context of this isn't employer/employee but master/slave! When we understand that it is the Lord Christ we serve, we are set free from being menpleasers and begin to work whole heartily.

Our jobs may be the delivery system of material gain the Lord uses, but He is the source of our supply. As long as we hold this truth, our jobs will never turn into the service of idols!

II. The LORD is my Protector

□ He is the source of my physical and emotional stability.

1. The Cave of Adullam

A. "No man cared for my soul."

Ps 142:1-4

1 I cried unto the LORD with my voice; with my voice unto the LORD did I make my supplication.

2 I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before him my trouble.

3 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.

4 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

When in trouble, David cried out to the one who could help him. No man knew his heart or had any concern for his soul. This psalm was written in the Cave of Adullam.

B. Life in the cave

1 Sam 22:1-2

- 1 David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.
2 And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

It wasn't just desperate men he was with. His family was there! And yet he says, "No man cared for my soul." Job had miserable comforters. David had dangerous hangers-on!

Ps 57:4

My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

In this circumstance, David wisely relied on God as his protection.

C. The LORD his refuge

Ps 142:5-7

- 5 I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
6 Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I.
7 Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me.

2. In the presence of the LORD

Ps 16:4-11

- 4 Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.
5 **The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance** and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.
6 The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.
7 I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.
8 I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.
10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

The Hebrew word translated “pleasures” means sweetness, delightfulness, lovely, beautiful, and agreeable. It isn’t the pleasure of fulfilling sinful lust.

3. Our affections are to be set on Him
- A. It is a requirement of discipleship.

Luke 14:26

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Our love for the Lord should be such that when any other relationship is compared to it, it should look like hate in contrast.

1 Cor 16:22

If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

1 Cor 16:22

If anyone does not love the Lord [does not have a friendly affection for Him and is not kindly disposed toward Him], he shall be accursed! Our Lord will come! (Maranatha!) AMP

Love in this verse is phileo, not agapeo. Phileo is the love of the emotions, agapeo is the love of the will. We are told that if our emotional affections are not set on the Lord Jesus Christ, we will be cursed at His coming!

If we seek to find the emotional security in any one other than Him, we will be cursed!

- B. Cursed is the one who trusts in flesh.

Jer 17:4-10

4 And thou, even thyself, shalt discontinue from thine heritage that I gave thee; and I will cause thee to serve thine enemies in the land which thou knowest not: for ye have kindled a fire in mine anger, which shall burn for ever.

5 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

- 9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Our heart is such that it is very difficult for us to maintain and realize our true motivations and affections. The LORD searches our hearts and purifies us.

Heb 4:12-13

- 12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

The Living Word checks our thoughts and intents. As we stay in relationship with Him, He will keep us pure in our relationship with others.

C. His righteousness first.

Matt 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Ps 51:4

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

If every seeking is after Him and every breach weighed rightly as an offense against Him, our relationships with others will be purified.

III. The LORD is my Purifier

- He is the source of my relational stability.

1. Holding the Head

Col 2:19

And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

It is as the members of the body Hold the head that the body receives proper nourishment.

2. The anointing of unity

Ps 133

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

2 **It is like the precious ointment upon the head**, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion:
for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

The "pleasant" in verse 1 is the same word found in Ps. 16:11. The sweetness, beauty, and pleasure of fellowship comes when we are unified under Him. Then the anointing of the Holy Spirit comes down from the Head and bathes the Body.

3. The purity of love
A. Security in love

John 13:1-5

1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

He could abase Himself and serve His disciples because He was fully secure in His relationship with the Father.

John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

We can love each other as disciples when we are secure in the love He has for us.

B. Building in love

Eph 4:11-16

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, **maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**

C. Perfected in love

1 John 4:16-21

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Focusing on the Lord is not to make us isolationist monks but free us from the fear of man that we may love rightly. We love because He loves us.

Conclusion

If we recognize that God is our source of mercy, acceptance, and love we will be able to love one another in purity without idolatry. The body of Christ will certainly serve as a delivery system of mercy, acceptance, and love which will go a long way to keeping us emotionally stable. But if we look to men to supply to us that which only should come from God, we turn them into idols and thus defile our own souls and poison the relationship.

Col 2:6-10

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

1 John 5:20-21

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.