Get Connected – Building Relationship

Ken Chapman · 1 John 1:1–7

INTRODUCTION

- We generally speaking are people of connections. We're people of relationships.
- The shepherds here have chosen as our theme for this year, get connected, building relationships.

1 At Its Heart, Christianity Is About a Relationship

John 1:1; John 1:14; 1 John 1:1–4

- Christianity involves many different things, but at its core, it's about a relationship.
- So at its heart, Christianity is about a relationship. The scriptures call it fellowship.
- That you also may have fellowship with us. And truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
- Purpose of the incarnation was a relationship. God wanted a relationship with his people.

2 The Goal of Obedience Is a Relationship

1 John 1:5–7

- The goal of obedience is a relationship.
- But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his son, cleanses us from all sin.
- Is Christianity about obedience and following commands? If it is, it's about following those commands so that I can be in a relationship with my God.
- Reconciliation just simply means a restored relationship. Or a restored fellowship.

3 What Is a Christian? Part of the Body

1 Corinthians 12:12; 1 Corinthians 12:25–27; Romans 12:15

- Being a Christian is about a relationship, a life-changing relationship that trickles down and affects every other relationship that I have.
- If I don't have those relationships, am I truly a Christian?
- This is not some corporate structure that we're talking about. This is unity and this is relationship.
- And if one member suffer, all the members suffer with it. If one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

4 The Most Common Description Is the Family

Matthew 12:50; 1 Peter 3:8

- By far the most common description of us together in our relationship is the family.
- When the scriptures speak of us as being a family, it speaks of it in the ideal. Of what a family at its best ought to be and is.

- If your family upbringing was a far cry from that, you have a do over as to what a true family could be.
- Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another, love as brothers.

5 Relationship to God, Relationship to One Another

Hebrews 10:19–25

- Even the most basic and fundamental aspects of Christianity all relate to this relationship.
- Let us draw near with a true heart and full assurance of faith.
- And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.
- Relationship to God, relationship to one another.

6 Get In, Appreciate and Enhance This Relationship

- First of all, let's start at the most basic ground level. Get in this relationship.
- And then, secondly, appreciate this relationship.
- Spend time in prayer, spend time in the scriptures, spend time meditating about the relationship you should have and hopefully do have with God and one another.
- How can I build and enhance this relationship that we're to have? Because if you are my family, that comes with it certain obligations.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would you get in that relationship today? Maybe you've broken that relationship. Maybe, like the prodigal son, you have left the Father's house. Why not restore or allow God to restore that relationship this morning?**

MY NOTES