

How To Relate To God

Exodus 19

Introduction:

- My first day of school always kept me awake the night before
- My big fear was how I would relate to a new situation
- I can imagine the fear some students have when schools reopen

- The lack of meeting in person meetings and the increase of social media will impact a younger generation on how to relate with each other

- How social media Effects communication?
 - *Studies show that 11 percent of adults prefer to stay home on weekends and make posts on Facebook instead of going out and acquiring real-life experiences*
 - *39% of respondents felt closer to their friends because of social media while 26% felt they had more friends because of social media*

<https://www.theeducationmagazine.com/word-art/social-media-affects-communication/>

- Will we forget how to relate to one another?
- Do we know how to relate to others effectively?
- Do we know how to relate to our Creator?
- How do we relate to Him as Lord?

- As time **changed** for Israel from **Joseph to Moses**, Israel had to learn how to relate to God has free people on their own.

- This chapter is like a parent preparing their child for the first day of school.

- As a **college student** experiences freedom after all they've known is parental rules, Israel must know how to relate to God as they break from Egypt's dictatorship and learn how to live under a theocracy (God's rule).
- Do you remember when you were a new Christian and you're trying to figure out how to live like a Christian?
- Or maybe you are a new Christian and you're trying to figure out how to relate to God.

Proposition: Exodus 19 gives us 3 qualities (or attributes) of God and how we must conform to relate to Him.

- Date – you learn about each other
- **Marriage** – you have accepted who your spouse is.
 - Your job is not to change them, but to accept them as who they are
 - We are to help complete them on the road of becoming more like Christ
- As **honeymooners** learn to relate to their spouse, Israel is on their honeymoon with God in the wilderness.

1. He's A Loving God: Obey (1-6)

¹On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ²They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴'You yourselves have seen what **I did to the Egyptians**, and how **I bore** you on eagles' wings and **brought** you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed **obey** my voice and **keep** my covenant, you shall be my **treasured possession** among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a **kingdom of priests** and a **holy nation**.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

- Moses is at Mt. Sinai in the wilderness of Sinai after leaving Rephidim
- God spoke to Moses like he did in Exodus 3 – most likely through a burning bush
- **3 Ways He Loves Us:**
 - **Protecting**
 - As a Heavenly Father, God protect Israel from their enemy
 - "see[n] what I did to the Egyptians"
 - Whom we love, we protect
 - We will protect our family, our friends, our church, God's glory
 - God protected us from hell and judgment through Christ
 - **Rescuing**
 - "I bore you on eagles' wings
 - He rescued us like a parent eagle
 - Adult eagles would teach their eaglets how to fly by putting them on their backs, sometimes catching them when they fall

Deuteronomy 32:11 Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions,
 - **Bringing Us to Himself**
 - [I] brought you to myself
 - I just received the digitally transferred videos of Brianna and Karinna's birth (they missed the digital era)
 - When they were brought to Daisy who just bore them – it was sweet and precious
 - God loves us and His purpose of rescuing Israel was to bring them to Himself
 - To have a love relationship without the interference of Egypt's pharaoh, gods and religion
 - Jesus died to bring sinners to heaven
- **2 Ways We Love Him:**
 - Love isn't a mere emotion that is flipped on by hormones or romance
 - Biblical love is dutiful and sacrificial

- We love our children even when they are unlovable – because that’s our role as parents
- We love our spouses when they are unlovable – because that’s a commitment we made for better or for worse, in sickness and in health
- NT *Agape* love is a sacrificial duty Christ demonstrated on the cross while we were yet sinners Christ died for us

Romans 5:8 God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- **Obey His Voice** (v. 5)
- **Keep His Covenant** (v. 5)
 - This covenant refers to what God established with Abraham in Genesis
 - The Book of Exodus is how God is continuing what He established for Israel in His Covenant with Abraham

John 14:15 If you **love** me, you will **keep** my commandments.

John 14:21 Whoever has my **commandments** and **keeps** them, he it is who **loves** me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

John 14:23-24 ²³Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

- **3 Roles He Imparts To Us:**

- **Treasured Possession**
 - “you shall be my **treasured possession** among all peoples”
 - This means that Israel is a possession of the King
 - We are in awe if we see something owned by Queen Elizabeth or Victoria or Henry the VIIIth is a museum
 - “for all the earth is mine” (5) – God is declaring there is only One God and the universe belongs to Him
 - this is proof of His claim of monotheism
 - we are His because He claims everything
 - But we are special to Him!!
 - The one who rules and owns the universe – out of all His possessions, Israel is treasured
- **A Kingdom Of Priests**
 - Adam and Eve were created to be priests
 - They would directly communicate and interact with God

- Their vocation was worshipping God
- Though Israel would eventually have specific priests with the Levites and descendants of Aaron, each Israelite is recognized as a priest
- God had a personal relationship with each
- The **Church** has also been given the role as priests
- There is no clergy/laity distinction in the church that the Roman Catholic church have in their hierarchy
- The Bible says we're all priests!

a. Priests offer sacrifices to God (1 Pet 2:5; cf. Rom 12:1; Heb 13:5,16; Phil 4:18; Rom 16:16)

1 Peter 2:5 "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

b. Priests proclaim praises towards God

1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"

c. Priest offer prayers to God

1 Tim 2:1 "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men"

- "The doctrine of the priesthood of all believers emerged in reaction to the sacramentalism that dominated church life and work. Sacramentalism is the belief that in the observance of the sacraments of the church special grace is conveyed to the participants – even saving grace. The priest, according to sacramentalism, has precedence over the laity in exercising the office of the church....Luther advocated the priesthood of all believers, which forms a central doctrine of all Protestantism. Priesthood, to him, meant that we stand before God, pray for others, intercede with God, sacrifice ourselves to Him and proclaim the Word to one another. Universal priesthood never meant 'privatism' or religious individualism. Luther believed this right was given to the community of the saints, who are a priestly generation, a royal priesthood." (Ed Hayes, *The Church*, p. 61)

○ **A Holy Nation**

- "Holy" = "set apart"
- A nation set apart to God
- Not the Egyptians, Amalekites, and other nations – God loved them, but their nations were not uniquely set apart by God for a special purpose

- Israel was set apart to be the fulfillment of God's covenant to Abraham – a forever land, a forever blessing and a forever king
- Israel was set apart to bring other nations to the knowledge of the One True God
- Israel was set apart to be the nation that would bring forth the Savior of the World, Jesus Christ

2. He's A Communicating God: Believe (7-9a)

⁷So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these **words** that the Lord had **commanded** him. ⁸All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has **spoken** we will do." And Moses reported the **words** of the people to the Lord. ^{9a}And the Lord **said** to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may **hear** when I **speak** with you, and may also **believe** you forever."

- "words," "commanded", "spoken," "said," "hear," "speak"
- God wants to **communicate** with us
- He wants to **reveal** Himself – this is where we get the word **Revelation**
 - Revelation = disclose, uncover, reveal, expose, open, lay bare
 - Gr. *Apokalypsis*
 - Henry Thiessen defines "Revelation" as "that act of God whereby he discloses himself or communicates truth to the mind; whereby he makes manifest to his creatures that which could not be known in any other way." (*Introductory Lectures In Systematic Theology*, p. 31)
- **What is God's expectation with His communication? Listen & Obey**
- "that the people may **hear** when I speak ... and may also **believe** you forever" (9a)
- God is very much a Divine Parent, a Heavenly Father
- Instructions from parents are to be heard and obeyed
- Sometime we hear our parents but don't obey
- God requires both!

3. He's A Holy God: Consecrate (9b-25)

^{9b}When Moses told the words of the people to the Lord, ¹⁰the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and **consecrate** them today and tomorrow, and let them **wash** their garments ¹¹and **be ready** for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹²And you shall set **limits** for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. ¹³No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain." ¹⁴So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and **consecrated** the people; and they **washed** their garments. ¹⁵And he said to the people, "**Be ready** for the third day; do not go near a woman."

¹⁶On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. ¹⁷Then Moses

brought the people out of the camp to **meet God**, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. ¹⁹And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. ²⁰The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

²¹And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and **warn** the people, lest they break through to the Lord to look and many of them perish. ²²Also let the priests who come near to the Lord **consecrate** themselves, lest the Lord break out against them." ²³And Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, '**Set limits** around the mountain and **consecrate** it.'" ²⁴And the Lord said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest he break out against them." ²⁵So Moses went down to the people and told them.

- **Holiness Means "Separateness"**

- Heb. *qedosh*; Gk. *hagiazō*
- "Holy" = lit. "to separate", "to divide"
 - Heb. *kadesh* or *qadas* – consecrate, dedicate, be hallowed
 - The root *qad* means to "cut" or "separate"

Isaiah 40:25 ²⁵"To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.

Habakkuk 1:13 ¹³You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours a person more righteous than he?

- "Holy" = from Germanic origin
- "Saint" = from Romantic origin
- R. C. Sproul: "The primary meaning of *holy* is 'separate.' It comes from an ancient word that meant, 'to cut,' or 'to separate.' Perhaps even more accurate would be the phrase 'a cut above something.' When we find a garment or another piece of merchandise that is outstanding, that has a superior excellence, we use the expression that it is 'a cut above the rest.'" (*The Holiness Of God*, p. 54)
- John Frame: "Holiness ... is God's capacity and right to arouse our reverent awe and wonder. It is his uniqueness (Ex 15:11; 1 Sam 2:2), his transcendence. It is his majesty, for the holy God is like a great king, whom we dare not treat like other persons. Indeed, God's holiness impels us to worship in his presence." (*The Doctrine Of God*, p. 28)
- Ie/ The "Holy" Bible – it's a book separate and above all other books
- Ie/ The "Holy" Church – a group of believers separate from the world
- V. 9 God's majestic cloud demonstrated that He is like nothing else
 - The pagan gods were motionless statues
 - God intimidated and animated Himself through a supernatural phenomena

Exodus 19:16-20 ¹⁶On the morning of the third day there were **thunders** and **lightnings** and a **thick cloud** on the mountain and a **very loud trumpet blast**, so **that all the people in the camp trembled**. ¹⁷Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to **meet God**, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Now Mount Sinai was **wrapped in smoke** because **the Lord had descended on it in fire**. The **smoke** of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and **the whole mountain trembled greatly**. ¹⁹And as the sound of the **trumpet grew louder** and louder, **Moses spoke**, and **God answered him in thunder**. ²⁰The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

- Thunder, lightning, thick cloud, trumpet blasts, ascending smoke, God speaking in thunder
- What a contrast to immobile statues!
- What a contrast to man!
- God is unique, uncommon, set apart from all creation – that’s how God is holy!

- We take God too casually today.
- We don’t fear His holiness.
- We take His name in vain.
- His name becomes a curse word.

• **3 Ways To Respond To Our Holy God**

*consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them **wash** their garments ¹¹ and **be ready** for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² And you shall set **limits** for the people all around*

○ **Consecrate**

- **Exodus 19:10** Go to the people and **consecrate** them today and tomorrow, and let them **wash** their garments”
- Making yourself holy before God
- Ceremonial observation in the Old Testament would include washing clothes and abstaining from sex (not that sex is wrong, but God is asking them for total dedication)
- For some of you married men who remember the day of your proposal – you showered, wore clean clothes and prepared a special ring saying you wanted to dedicate the rest of your life to her
 - Ie/ for me, that was at Serramonte Mall
- Like a proposal, we take the preparation seriously, eagerly and lovingly
- We take the dedication to be exclusive
- That’s a picture of consecration to God

○ **Be Ready**

- **Exodus 19:6** and **be ready** for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.
- **Exodus 19:15** And he said to the people, “**Be ready** for the third day; do not go near a woman.”
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- When God has an audience, make sure your video is on and your microphone is unmuted – be ready before God
- God is about to pronounce His commandments

- Be ready to obey

Exodus 19:21-22 ²¹And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and **warn** the people, lest they break through to the Lord to look and many of them perish. ²²Also let the priests who come near to the Lord **consecrate** themselves, lest the Lord break out against them."

- **Observe Limits** – stay off the mountain, stay away from other gods, stay away from sin, stay on the path of righteousness
 - Observe the rules of the meeting when God is going to pronounce His law

Exodus 19:12-13 ¹²And you shall set **limits** for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. ¹³No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain."

Exodus 19:23-24 ²³And Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, '**Set limits** around the mountain and **consecrate** it.'" ²⁴And the Lord said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest he break out against them."

Conclusion:

- **Obey** – If you know how much He loves us and protects us, we should have no problem following Him knowing He has our good and growth in mind.
- **Believe** – God could have left us in a vacuum to figure Him out on our own, but He spoke to us. Read His Word and believe!
- **Consecrate** – Prepare ourselves to meet God daily. Consecrate our life, time, things, family, opportunities. They all belong to Him.

Discussion:

- What does God want you to do that you know you have not been doing?
- What has God been teaching us from His Word lately?
- What would a consecrated day to the Lord look like in a regular day of yours?