**Having A Relationship With Christ**

**Introduction**

1. A popular ideology is that of a personal relationship with Christ over religion.
2. This marks religion as bad (standards; judgments; assembling; responsibility; etc.).
3. By “personal relationship” they mean they love Jesus, and live for Jesus in their own way.
4. They live under a false notion of unconditional acceptance.
5. They fail to realize that the only relationships that can be had with Christ are defined in scripture, not by us personally.
6. Christ wants to have a relationship with you (cf. Matthew 11:28-30 – He offers a relationship that is beneficial to you.).
7. He wants to dwell with us – 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 (But we must be separate from the world.); cf. Hebrews 8:10
8. The gospel is God’s call to a relationship with Him – Galatians 3:26-27
9. Spiritual blessings are in Christ – Ephesians 1:3

* Everyone wants the spiritual blessings, but they don’t want to do what God says to attain them. So they establish their own relationship with Christ, which is not a relationship at all.

1. Christ only offers a relationship with Him through His word (cf. Matthew 11:25-27 – This relationship is attained through the gospel *– “the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”* – cf. Romans 1:16-17).

The relationship He offers is can only be defined as it is described in His word. 🡪

1. Savior and the saved – Acts 4:12 (Peter before the Sanhedrin was asked by what power or name had he healed the lame man)
2. Shepherd and the Sheep – John 10:1-6 (Jesus is the shepherd who cares for His sheep. His sheep follow Him. They do not follow strangers, because strangers do harm.)
3. Bridegroom and His Bride – Ephesians 5:22-32 (The church is composed of the saved. The saved are those who submit to Christ.)
4. King and citizens – John 18:33-37; John 3:3, 5 (Christ’s kingdom is spiritual, and its blessings are eternal. To be a citizen you must be born again.)
5. Head and members of His body – Ephesians 1:22-23 (The body cannot survive without the head. Everything the body does is determined by the head.)
6. Friends – John 15:13-15 (We are only His friend if we do what He commands.)
7. Brethren – Hebrews 2:10-12; 3:6 (As Christ’s brethren we receive benefits from the father. Christ humbled Himself to become our brother.)
8. One living in disobedience is not in a relationship with Christ (cf. 1 John 1:5-6; Matthew 7:21-23).

**Conclusion**

1. Having a relationship with Christ is important.
2. However, we do not, and cannot define what that relationship is without the Bible.