

# Reach out to others as God reached out to you

Romans 5: 8-10

By Abri Brancken , 12 Feb 2017

## **God initiated your relationship with Him**

God is initiator, not us.

He is the source of your relationship.

Our lives are a response to God's relational initiative and invitation.

Man, did not come up with the idea to serve God, He did and He makes it possible for us to do so.

He reached out to each one of us and He continues to reach out to humanity from all walks of life, nationalities, races, tongues.

The only reason you can love God or anybody else is because God first loved you. And he showed that love by sending Jesus Christ to Earth to die for you.

## **1 John 4:19**

We love because He first loved us.

## **John 6:44**

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

## **Romans 5:8-10**

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## **We serve a relational God**

We serve a relational God that wants to see all men turn from evil and embrace a relationship with Him. The thing is this, He wants those that have committed themselves to loving Him and serving His purposes on earth, to extend His heart to those around them.

Once you have been saved and have accepted the invitation to have a relationship with Him, your life should invite others to the relationship that you have. Following Christ means being a disciple and making disciples, being involved in the lives of other, encouraging them towards a deeper relationship with God.

## **God preserves your relationship with Him**

God is also the one who preserves the relationship. He sustains it daily.

## **Philippians 1:6**

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

## **1 John 4:16**

And we ourselves know and believe the love which God has for us. God is love, and those who live in love live in union with God and God lives in union with them.

## **Christianity is a TEAM effort**

Christianity works best when we don't have a "me" or "I" focus, but a "we" focus. It is designed that we live interdependent with one another.

TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More

### **Jesus reached out to His disciples**

Jesus came and went against the traditional established custom of obtaining His disciples.

The custom was that the very best students would approach a Rabbi to request being considered for discipleship. It was very difficult to become a disciple as the standard was extremely high.

A young man would approach a Rabbi to ask him whether he could be a disciple. He Rabbi would often ask the "wanna be" disciple questions to test his knowledge, understanding of Scripture, etc. Only the very best was accepted.

Jesus came and he chose those who did not have the ability to be a disciple of a famous Rabbi. He knew that through heavens empowerment, they can become what God intended for them to be.

### **Discipleship is God's love in action**

1. "Love initiates a discipling relationship."

Am I willing to initiate intentional time together with this person?

Beyond starting the relationship, will I bring up the hard conversation we need to have?

Am I bold enough to consistently move our conversation to spiritual things?

2. "Love perseveres in a discipling relationship."

Am I ready to keep calling after months of seeing little fruit or progress?

Will I give up if this person falls back into an old pattern of sin?

How will I respond to the inconveniences in this relationship?

3. "Love humbly gives of itself in a discipling relationship."

What sacrifices am I making to spend time discipling this person?

Do I tend to feel bitter or prideful about the sacrifices I make for others?

Jesus says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Do you think of yourself as an instrument in the Saviour's hands?

2 Peter 3:9

...not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.