

The Ultimate Relationship

Do you know what my ultimate goal in training my dogs is? It's not getting robot-like obedience, bragging rights, or even a smart dog. It's the relationship. One where respect is mutual, communication is clear, and working together is a common occurrence. A bond where each thoroughly enjoys the company of the other. Trust: they trust me, through proven successes, to lead, guide, and protect; I trust them, also through proven successes, to obey and give me information that I couldn't get otherwise. As amazing as this relationship is, it's not by accident. I believe it's a reflection of an even more astounding relationship—the one between mere humans and God.

At the beginning of time, God made the first human beings, Adam and his wife Eve, to have a relationship with Him. But they sinned, putting the barrier of disobedience and mistrust between them and their Creator. Because God is holy, He cannot have fellowship with sin. But God so loved the people He created and He still deeply desired to have an intimate relationship with them. So in His perfect timing He brought about His plan of redemption for the whole world: His only Son. Jesus Christ, being fully God and fully man, did something that you and I could never do: He lived a completely sinless life. Because of this, He was the only one in the entire world capable of atoning our sin. God made Jesus to be sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). He died the agonizing death that we deserve, then He rose from the grave, defeating death and making a way for us to know God. All because He loves us! All because He wants to redeem, cleanse, and purify us! He wants us to be His children, and He wants to be our loving Father and Lord. Because He is Good. But He doesn't force it on us. He wants us to choose Him, trust Him, and believe Him. But it's our choice. We can refuse His great love and invitation, continue in our sins, and depart this life into eternal darkness and separation from God (“...into the fire that never shall be quenched” [Mark 9:43]). Or, we can choose to believe Him, forsake our sins, trust Him with our life, and walk in His ways, departing this life into everlasting fellowship with Him in heaven (“...that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. [John 6:40])

I've trusted Him with my life and He has always been faithful. The choice is yours. I urge you to believe Jesus!