

Transactional Relationship vs. Relational Relationship

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Broadcast Dates: 1/28/26-1/30/26

Message Date: 6/22/25 ● 10:00 a.m.

Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 30:15–20, *NLT*
- Genesis 39:1–3
- John 15:15, *NLT, Mirror*
- Galatians 4:6, *NLT, Mirror*
- Ephesians 2:8, 9, *NIV*

Summary:

In many churches today, believers are trained to approach God with a transactional mindset—doing something to get something from Him. This old covenant approach is based on conditional blessings, where actions must precede God’s response. However, through Jesus, we’ve entered into a relational relationship with God—one built on love, trust, and intimacy rather than performance. A transactional relationship says, “If I do this, then God will do that.” It’s driven by obligation, fear, or the desire to manipulate divine outcomes. Conversely, a relational relationship flows from knowing God personally, trusting in His goodness, and acting from that relationship, not for results.

Notes:

1. Transactional Relationship: A cause-and-effect mindset rooted in the old covenant. The mindset is “If you obey, then God will bless you; if you disobey, then you’re cursed.” The law points out our sin, but Jesus points out our righteousness and innocence in Him.
2. Relational Relationship: Rooted in the finished work of Jesus. The message is, “I love you, and even if you don’t do another thing, I’m in it for the relationship.”
3. Jesus Shifted the covenant. Under the old covenant, God responded to obedience with blessing. Under the new covenant, He responds based on what Jesus already did.
4. Joseph was a picture of prosperity by relationship. Prosperity isn’t defined by possessions, but by God’s presence. Relationship, not circumstances, determines prosperity.
5. Relational living is motivated by love and trust. Jesus calls us friends, not slaves. We’re included in His intimate conversation with the Father.

Category: relationships

Keywords: transactional, relational, relationship, covenant, conditional blessings, love, trust, performance