

Transactional Relationship vs. Relational Relationship

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Broadcast Dates: 9/16/26-9/18/26

Message Date: 6/22/25 ● 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 30:15-20, *NLT*
- Genesis 29:1-3
- John 15:15, *NLT*
- John 15:15, *Mirror*
- Galatians 4:6, *NLT*
- Galatians 4:6, *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; this is 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. Jesus shifted the model from transactional to relational. Joseph had a prosperous relationship because he knew God.
2. A transactional relationship involves a cause-and-effect mindset rooted in the old covenant. A relational relationship is rooted in the finished works of Jesus.
3. Under the old covenant, God responded to obedience with blessing. Under the new covenant, He responds based on what Jesus already did.
4. We must avoid the trap of falling into transactional faith; relational faith is more prosperous.
5. There are dangers involved with transactional faith. It fosters manipulation: "If I do this, God will owe me." By comparison, relational living is motivated by love and trust.

Category: relationships

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