

**Rock Solid
Relationship or
Relationship on
The Rocks?
I Peter 1:8-9**



SUMMARY OF TODAY'S MESSAGE

Why do we insist that having a *relationship* with God is not the same as being a *religious* person?
How is a relationship with Him even possible, since He is GOD and thus is unique from all other creatures?

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S MESSAGE

Today, the answer to that will be made simple as we consider the simplest components of any relationship, including a relationship with God.

I. Introduction

Personal relationship with God—how do you have that?

Moses wanted to see God (Exodus 33:18)

"Truly You are a God who hides Himself"
(Isaiah 45:15)

I. Introduction

We don't have a lot in common with God
Love and trust—inseparable

II. Relationship is based on love

If you violate love or trust, the relationship
disintegrates

Love is a choice you make—you don't see Him,
but you love Him

II. Relationship is based on love

The essence of love: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37)

Ask an unbeliever, "Do you love Jesus?" If they say yes, ask a deeper question

II. Relationship is based on love

What's the proof you love Him "Obey His commands" (see John 14:15-24)

If you don't love Jesus enough to do what He says, then you don't love Jesus

Just because you can't see God, doesn't mean He's not available

II. Relationship is based on love

Call 911; what happens? They respond to the
call

"Call on me and I will answer you" (Jeremiah
33:3)

God is available

III. Relationship is based on trust

You can't separate love and trust

True love trusts (see 1 Corinthians 13)

"Now"

There will come a time when what was invisible
will become visible (see 1 John 3:2)

III. Relationship is based on trust

That was the great hope of Job (Job 19:27)

"We walk by faith and not by sight"

(2 Corinthians 5:7)

III. Relationship is based on trust

Which of the disciples showed weak faith?

Peter (see Matthew 14:29-31, 16:21-23, and
John 21:15-19)

Thomas (see John 20:24-29)

"Blessed are those who have never seen and yet
believe" (John 20:29)

IV. Relationship based on love and trust satisfies

Rejoice with joy inexpressible (above words,
above language)

Satisfaction

Joy is one of the great themes of God's people in
every generation

The word joy appears 158 times in the Bible

IV. Relationship based on love and trust satisfies

Paul commanded believers to rejoice; he wrote that command from prison (Philippians 4:4)

Joy has little to do with what is going on around you and all about what is going on within you

Joy must be carefully guarded

IV. Relationship based on love and trust satisfies

"If you have no joy, there must be a leak in your Christianity somewhere" —Billy Sunday

Joy is not automatic; it is the result of a choice you make

It is our duty to be a joyful believer (not fake)

IV. Relationship based on love and trust satisfies

"The relationship and joy you have with God now, pales in comparison to what is coming

"When I met Jesus Christ, I felt that I had swallowed sunshine" —E. Stanley Jones