

Parson to Person

Ruth 1:16–17

What is a Christian relationship?

This is not as simple a question as it appears. Consider what we mean by the word “Christian” at Candlelight and let’s rephrase.

What does a Born-again, Christ-Centered, Bible-based, Candlelight-fostered relationship actually look like in this generation of false teaching, dark counsel, and treachery against the Lord Jesus and His ways?

What does such a friendship look like?

A family? A marriage?

If we could fully picture that, let’s make it tougher still. What do such Christian relationships look like amid the wreckage of broken relationships leftover from serial and ubiquitous adultery, fornication, and other worse levels of human betrayal?

Do we have any Christian doctrine to help us picture this? I’ll come back to that question in a moment, but let’s further ask: do we have any biblical directive to help us lay hold of Christian doctrine about godly relationships? Where would we look in the Bible to get a solid, clear, high-definition, high-resolution photo as it were of a redeemed, sanctified partnership in Christ?

Let’s start here today: the Book of Ruth.

Consider this passage of poetry (Ruth 1:16–17) that is a centerpiece of the historical account of King David’s great-great-grandmother:

*“Entreat me not to leave you,
Or to turn back from following after you;
For wherever you go, I will go;
And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people,
And your God my God.
Where you die, I will die,
And there I will be buried.
The LORD do so to me, and more also,
If anything but death parts you and me.”*

In today’s message we will explore both false and true versions of this passage.

False versions of a Biblical passage? Absolutely. We know from Matthew 4 and Luke 4 that the Devil himself can recite a Bible passage with 100 percent accuracy, but it is 100 percent false in the Devil’s mouth. Likewise, there are false uses of this passage on loyalty that are common and widespread. We need to be very clear that a passage portraying the loyalty and devotion such as we read about here belongs in a context of honesty, authenticity, and obedience to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus.

Likewise, true versions of this passage will pass every test of Biblical, Spirit-led, Christ-centered, wisdom-driven scrutiny.

The Bible says that all family relationships in Christ are to be conducted amid mutual submission to and reverence for Christ (Ephesians 5:21ff).

It is only in that true context that a born-again believer can say, and believe:

*“For wherever you go, I will go;
And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people,
And your God my God.”* (vs. 16b)

There is much more to be said about this, and we will hear it together this morning, in the Lord Jesus’ Name!

I love you all,

Dr. Jason Murray

Candlelight Family Ministries