



L.E.A.N. Letter

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"Are You In A REAL-ationship With Jesus Christ?" (Part 1 of 2)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, are you more eager to talk about your spouse, children, friends, and other loved ones before you even consider mentioning Jesus in your life? If so, then have you considered the thought as to whether Jesus is truly a priority in your heart, or even if He is really REAL to you? Do you find yourself treating Him like His sole purpose in your life is just to forgive your sins so that you can make it into heaven? Examine your heart. You and Jesus already know the truth about what you believe.

To know Jesus is to have a REAL-ationship (a REAL relationship) with Him, just like you would with anyone else in your life. Jesus is called your "Groom", and you His "Bride" for a reason (**John 3:29**). Like a (physical) husband is meant to be #1 in his wife's life (and vice versa), Jesus seeks that same, but higher, level of priority in your REAL-ationship with Him. Though Jesus does not have human emotions, He still wants to know that He is #1 in your heart.

YOU KNOW JESUS...BUT DOES JESUS KNOW YOU?

As you are examining Jesus in your life, and your REAL-ationship with Him, begin with this question...Do you truly know Him? If so, are you sure that Jesus knows you? Be careful not to dismiss this question by having the "of course, He knows me" mentality just because He knows ALL things of this world, including the people in it.

Many claim to know the President of the United States, but if in a room with him, would he know who YOU are, and/or claim to have any sort of relationship with you? It is likely that you know OF the President, which is not to be misconstrued with knowing him on a personal level. The same is true when it comes to knowing Jesus.

Jesus' definition to "know" someone is not like the definition of man. Jesus was very bold and direct when He told others that He didn't know them, despite the fact that they ate with Him, drove out demons, and performed miracles all in His great Name. According to man, all of the signs suggested that He knew them, but Jesus is very clear that this is not the case. In fact, He forcefully told them to get away from Him as He considered them "evildoers" because they were not His (**Luke 13:26-27**). This is a sobering fact that just because you may occasionally say or use Jesus' name (and experience the power of His name), does not mean that there is a personal REAL-ationship with Him, or that you are His.

To know Jesus is to BE His, and this starts with the (2) steps of salvation, which is **1**) a wholehearted confession (with your mouth) that Jesus is Lord over all, and **2**) unshakable belief (in your heart) that God raised Him from the dead. It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you have professed your faith and are saved (**Romans 10:9-10**).

STRUGGLING IN YOUR REAL-ATIONSHIP WITH JESUS?

Brothers and sisters, if you are successful with (love) relationships in your life, then understand that you already know what to do when it comes to loving Jesus. When you want to spend (quality) time with someone, use what you already know to do...turn the tv off, put your phone away (and/or turn the ringer OFF), enjoy an intimate, quiet dinner without distractions, go on a picnic, take a nap together wrapped in each other's arms, etc. You can do the same in your REAL-ationship with Jesus. Why? Because HE is just as REAL. All you have to do is ask. The best part...He will ALWAYS say "yes", He will ALWAYS be ready without exception, and He will ALWAYS show up on time!

Does this mean that if you've experienced failed relationships in the past that you will fail in your relationship with Jesus? Not at all, but these (human) relationships can help you examine what may be going on in your heart. This can keep you from making these same mistakes again should there be some areas of improvement. Begin with identifying what you truly desire from Jesus.

Please read on...

~Scripture passages are cited using the NIV Holy Bible.~



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"Are You In A REAL-ationship With Jesus Christ?" (Part 1 of 2 Continued)

Do you desire His unconditional love, peace, joy, and all of the other fruits of His Holy Spirit that can bring out the very best in you? Are you looking for an opportunity to love Him back? Or, are you looking for the "genie in a bottle" relationship where your expectations can sometimes be unreasonable and very much one-sided...basically, a relationship of convenience? Start with being honest with yourself, and examine your heart if this is the case. (Note: When your REAL-ationship with Jesus gets better, your relationships with others will get better as well!)

LOVING JESUS (ACCORDING TO HIS STANDARDS)?

Do you truly love Jesus with ALL of your heart, soul, and mind as you are told to do through the first part of His Great Commandment (**Matthew 22:37**)? Basically, are you loving Him with every fiber of your being, and with every ounce of effort you can possibly put forth? Before you're quick to answer "yes", make sure that you are not using man's definition of love, but the Lord's. To love Jesus is to obey Him (**1 John 2:5-6 and 1 John 5:3**). So, if you are not in your Word, then how can you obey Him in your actions when you don't know what He is asking of you? According to the Lord, you must not love Him.

Also, do you pray for the Lord's instruction and guidance, yet do not obey what He tells you? If not, then do you really love Him? Would a spouse feel loved if their husband/wife always asked where they wanted to go for vacation, dinner, etc., only to find out that decisions have already been made regardless of what they say? Would it not become hurtful after a while, or appear that they don't really love their spouse enough to listen to what matters to them, especially since their marriage is a partnership? Not to mention, why ask if you really don't care to listen?

Please visit lean4jesus.org for Part 2 of this article.

~ These inspired words are intended to strengthen the body of Christ so that we can eliminate "obesity" of our spirit (unnecessary confusion and distraction), and to set ourselves apart from the world so that we can stand out as the mighty warriors we are called to be In Jesus' name! (These inspired messages/teachings are never to substitute the pure Word of God found in The Holy Bible.) ~

May you be blessed, and may you "Live L.E.A.N. (Loving Everyone As Neighbors)...Live Long"!

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