

The Bible: Reliable & Relational.

If someone were to ask you, do you believe Bible is God's word, all of us would say - Yes. But if you were asked why, How would you answer?

I. The Bible is Reliable

1. Some good answers: 1) Claims to be, 2) it's Unique (no other book like it), 3) it's timeless (common problem of humanity (sin), a common solution for every person in every age, every place); or, 4) It's prophetic route.

- All of these are **Hallmarks** of this book being communication from a Divine Eternal Being.
- These all are good answers to why I believe **the Bible is the word of God**.
- BUT I think there is a better answer...

2. Jesus said so.

- The Bible is the Word of God, because Jesus said so...
- Technically Jesus did say so.
 - a. OT is the Word of God - Luke 24:44-45
 - b. NT - is the Word of God. John 12:48-50, Jn 16 (Words of my apostles). Notice the chain of transmission: Father/Jesus/Spirit /Apostles/who spoke/wrote for you - 2 Thess 2:15).
 - c. One of those apostles said - 2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed.
 - d. If Jesus is happy w/ his Bible, I'm happy with mine.
- Objection - - Oh! That is circular reasoning. You can't go to Bible to prove Bible!! Answer: Sure you can - if someone claims to have OIL on property. Where do you Dig? on the property. BEST place to dig!
- Christianity lives/dies on truth of a singular event (1 Cor 15:1-3).
 - a. Paul - Felix the governor (your crazy Paul). No I'm not! Turned to a King, things not done in a corner (Act 26), 1
 - b. 100's saw him Jesus raised. No critics ever produced a body.
 - c. Jesus own brothers were unbelievers (Jn 7)/but later converted (Acts 1.14),
 - d. Saul, the most hostile of all (Act 9). What in world will you do with that?
 - e. Not everything is historically verifiable, but this is. **If God has been seen, then God is.**
 - f. **Interesting - - If Jesus had never died and was never raised from dead, no one would have ever heard of him. But ALL have heard of Him. Jesus is indeed the Son of God.**

And if Jesus was okay with his Bible, I'm okay with mine. The Bible is Reliable. It is God's word. Because Jesus said so.

II. The Bible is relational.

1. **Not** merely a rule book. (list of Do's & Don'ts).

2. **It is God's communication** with us so we **can know Him** and come to **have a relationship with Him**.

- Jn 17:4
- Gal 4:8-9

- Gal 4:4-7
- Judges 2:10 what was the condemnation of many of Judges generation ? they did not KNOW ME. No relationship. Didn't know who God was nor the things He really stood for. They weren't like him!

3. Bible is full of **relational analogies**:

- God is Father, we are sons & daughters; 2 Cor 6:14
- Or He is a husband, we are the bride. *Those are relational terms.*
- Shepherd & sheep - sheep know my voice (relational)
- Kingdom: Jesus is KING (emp/rule), his people are those who submit to his rule, citizens of the kingdom

Are you trying to tell us the Bible is relational, not just book of rules/do's and don'ts. Yes, exactly.
May I go further

4. The manner the Bible was written is relational

- **Narratives** - full of stories. The way we get to know someone we've not met is largely thru stories. We relay stories about our family at home? Sometimes we get started telling stories about things over the years that has happened. Funny stories/terrifying stories/courageous stories of faith. But It's how to get to know ancestors - grandparents, etc. The Bible is full of narratives: we learn about who God is, His heart, His will, what He loves, what He hates, how He responds to good, to evil.
- Deut 6:21-24
 - a. Does it have rules? YES > But when a kid asked - why all these rules!!! We understand its rules in framework of a RELATIONSHIP. Look what He did!! In view of that we need to do so and so...
 - b. 1 Sam 9:16 Why appoint Saul a king? *I heard their cry!*
I preface most books saying as we read be asking - - 1) what did you learn **about God**? 2) How am I to **relate myself to Him**?
 - c. Notice Deut 6:4-6. THE LORD IS ONE. LOVE GOD W/ ALL your heart. This is a contrast to false gods. Fickle, selfish, immoral, prone to fits of anger, arbitrary. To Israel Moses says - - Forget them!! There is Just ONE. LOVE HIM Israel, He is all you need to concern yourself with.
 - There is no other nation on earth like you!
 - Who has a God who is near, who gave you his laws/expectations.
 - Dt 4.6. Moses, you have no idea how blessed you are!!! [Neither do we for that matter].
- **Poetry** - why poetry? See PS 118.14 , 121.5, 61:4
 - a. I may prefer a rule book format, but you can't have relationship w/ a rule book. Don't cuddle up to a legal contract. Poetry is helpful/more relational
 1. The Lord is "your shade on your right hand" Ps 121:5
 2. He is "my song" Ps 118:14
 3. He is like a bird Ps 61:4 *take refuge under the shelter of your wings.*
 - b. *In a poem I might write for my wife Monica.* I might say, *She is wind beneath my wings!* (TRUE). Or, she is Like warm spring breeze on cold winter day! You say - Ugh, sappy! true, but it's relational!!! One way God revealed himself to us. Poetry!
- **Letters** - These too are relational. "Beloved, i am writing you", or..."*my heart is opened wide.* Paul said 2 Cor 7. *Open your hearts to me!*

5. But Bible has rules!! Not touchy feely! Yes
 - Psalm 119. Took 8 terms to convey every facet - *commandments, law, way, precepts, statutes...*
 - But listen to this young man! man.
 1. 57-59. The Lord is my portion; I promise to keep your words, I entreat your favor with all my heart, be gracious to me according to your promise.
 2. 88 In your steadfast love give me life, that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.
 3. Do you hear relationship?
 4. Do you hear him griping? No Does he feel threatened, constrained, hemmed in? Nope.
 5. To live in a culture like ours, it's a bit shocking/even disturbing to read 175 verses on God's law. Our tendency is to chafe at authority. Especially young people
 6. But this writer loves it. He's feels safe to move about w/o fear
 7. God's Laws are like a FENCE around playground. Or, guardrails on a highway to protect, gives freedom to move about without fear.
 - Bible does tell us how to **think right** and **act right**. It is course correcting (2 Tim 3:16-17).
 1. But what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 7
 2. We have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much ore be subject to the father of spirits and live. Heb 12.9
 3. **2 Tim 3:16 TRAINING** in Righteousness *RELATIONAL - FAMILY (LOVE WRITTEN ALL OVER IT)*
 4. TRAINING WORD - same on find in Eph 6:4 "Train up children"

5. PUT THIS ON BOARD. 1 John 4.8 GOD IS _____ {love, light}
 - Matt 22:34-39
 - a. Greatest command - LOVE GOD. And 2nd Like it - LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS SELF.
 - b. Both - Relational.
 - c. Notice vs 39. If you unpack the Law & prophets (OT as whole), at its core you'll come back to this.
 - Now God will define for us what Love looks like.
 - a. Has too. We are idiots and tend to redefine love in cultural ways.
 - b. Greatest way - Jn 1.18 (came to be w/ us, show us what love looks like walking around).

6. CLOSE WITH JESUS IN JOHN.
 - Jesus was driven by relationship to please his father.
 - John 8:28-29
 - John 14:30-31
 - Is that how we read the Bible? Is that why we do what we do? Because of relationship. We love the Father, we want to please the Father. He is constantly doing things for us, we don't even know about. But they are for our good and to realize his purposes.

Out of time.

John 10:10 I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. Would you like to have life/true life. You can. Can we help you begin to follow Jesus today.

**Mike Bozeman
271 Wyandotte Ave
Corydon, IN 47112
(812) 968-4122**

