THE NATURE OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Romans 8:1–17

Key Verse: 8:15

1. In verses 1–4 how did Christ make having a relationship with God possible, and how is this new relationship described here?
2. In verses 4–13 note how often Paul mentions living “according to the flesh,” and “according to the Spirit”; what warnings and blessings accompany each? In having a real relationship with God, why is living according to the Spirit so crucial? (7,8)
3. Read verses 14–16. How do we know that we are God’s children? What did Paul mean by being “slaves”? (6:6,16–17; 7:22,23; cf. 1Jn4:18) What did he mean by “our adoption,” and how does this transform our relationship with God? (15; cf. Gal4:5,6; 1Jn3:1a)
4. Read verse 15 again. What are the elements in a healthy father/child relationship? How does the Spirit make these things real in our personal relationship with God?
5. What else did Paul say about having a real relationship with God, and what does this mean to you?