

# Cooperative, Interdependent Working Relationship

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 2.07

## Introduction

- Ex 19:8, “The people all responded together, ‘We will do everything the Lord has said.’”
- Pr 28:26(a), “He who trusts in himself is a fool.”
- Jer 33:2-3, <sup>2</sup> “This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it – the LORD is his name: <sup>3</sup> ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’”

## The Concept

- Working with your covenant partner, with him as the expert consultant, relying on his direction, expertise, wisdom & judgment
  - Father honors us as the people he created us to be
  - Our relationship with him is not unidirectional, or top-down
- Creating humanity was not an afterthought or a whim
  - God created us in his image and likeness, to look and be like him, to think and act like him; to be his peers, as much as created beings can be peers of their Creator. He honored us by making us the pinnacle of all creation, crowning us with glory like his own and giving us our own domain to rule over.
  - It was his plan from the beginning to create a god-like creature, higher than the highest angel & so much like himself we could literally share his experiences & participate in what he does
  - Yes, sin corrupted man and his domain, but Father’s using that experience to launch those who trust in him far beyond Adam’s original state, as glorious as that was.
  - Adam was perfect as Father created him, but first-hand experience is invaluable in gaining insight and maturity
  - It is only through the fall and redemption that we could gain invaluable insight to his character – his love, grace, tenderness, compassion.
  - The angels around his throne can see these traits and more, and they worship him for who he is, but they can never experience them as we do
  - Father’s using the tragedy of sin to launch humanity into the glory he always intended us to have
  - The goal is a God-likeness that can only be accomplished through redemption and maturity based on intimate, first-hand relationship and experience

- Did God create sin or cause it to happen so we could experience redemption?
- He wants the love of those who choose to love him
- He wants the obedience of those who choose to obey him
- He doesn't rejoice in the punishment of the wicked, but it's the direct result of their choices & he honors their free will
- Father loves to give himself to us
- Does this concept of a working partnership violate Jesus' example?
  - Jn 5:19(c), "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."
  - Jn 14:24(c), "These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."
  - I believe the concept of a working partnership with God is not only valid but strongly scriptural & totally consistent with what Jesus said

### **Assignment**

- Meditate on the concept: Working with your covenant partner, with him as the expert consultant, relying on his direction, expertise, wisdom & judgment