**Title: I Can Relate**

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

1. God has called us all to a relationship of Him being our God and father **2 Corinthians 6:16-18**.

* When I talk of a relationship with God, I am talking about you and I having the same ancestry that connects us to God through Jesus.
* However, having a relationship does not automatically translate into the ability to be successful at *relating*.
  + Relating has to do with connecting with God; responding, understanding and interacting with Him.
  + Our ability to properly relate with/to God, is contingent on our understanding of the essence/nature of how God relates to us. The essence of this relationship is LOVE.

1. Equally important is an understanding of the characteristics of our relationship.

* Paul in **Ephesians 4:6** helps us to understand this by explaining our relationship with God through us understand the 3 characteristics of the relationship:

God above all, God in all and God through all.

* The problem sometimes is that we tend to lean heavily on one side of the equation rather than lend ourselves to the composing components. If we fail to recognize or appreciate the components it can lead to frustration and its attendant consequences.
  + For many of us, our Christian traditions may dictate the attribute we align with. For example, the faith/word of faith tradition will tend to make us relate with God from the “God in all” mindset, while the Baptist tradition may more align with a “God is above all” mindset.
* We need the three components to lead lives devoid of frustration and confusion.

1. God above all: refers to the supremacy/sovereignty of God. There are certain events that we will not be able to make sense of because God is God and we are humans. What we need to do in those times is trust that we are covered by His love and He has our best interests at heart even if it does not seem so. Romans 11:33
2. God through all: refers to God giftings and how He relates to us, by us surrendering and yielding ourselves to His work in us. God wants to show himself through us without our involvement. Ephesians 2:10
3. God in all: refers to man cooperating with God. He gives us the reins but works behind the scenes to ensure we are empowered to do what we need. For us to succeed, we must have the ownership mindset. Philippians 2:13