

Reboot

(Restore to Original Settings)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, February 6/7, 2016

Relationally

There is nothing more complex and challenging in life like relationships. The acknowledgment of struggle and failure should not overshadow the hopeful truth that in Christ relationships can be repaired, maintained and flourish.

Genesis 2:18, 25 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Two Unhealthy Extremes to Relationships:

"I can't live with you." (Isolation) ←→ "I can't live without you." (Immersion)

Most relationships fit one of three relational profiles:

- 1) The Frustrated Relationship. One person moves toward isolation while the other moves toward immersion.
- 2) The Enmeshed Relationship. Both people move toward immersion.
- 3) The Isolated Relationship. Both move toward isolation.

Isolationists conclude that relationships are too difficult.

Immersionists are convinced that relationships are everything.

A Healthy Understanding of Relationships:

- 1) God was so in love with community (Trinity) that He created a world of people to share it with. Gen1:26; Matt28:19
- 2) Our need for community with God and people is to us spiritually what O₂, food and water are to our physically. Matt22:34-40; 1Jn4:7-8; Ex20:3-17
- 3) Healthy people create healthy relationships, and healthy relationships help us to become healthy people.

Hallmarks of health:

- ✓ **Deep Significance** –You know at the center of your being you're unconditionally loved by God. (1Jhn4:19) Without this you become needy, insecure and vulnerable.

- ✓ **Firm Authenticity** –You know who you are and are open, honest, vulnerable and trustworthy. (Eph4:15, 25) Without this you become stagnant, superficial and phony.
- ✓ **Self-giving Love** –it is the overflow of satisfaction in God that gladly meets the needs of others. You are concerned about all needs but especially eternal needs. (Eph5:1-2) Without this you will definitely become selfish and self-absorbed.

4) God has two purposes for human community: personal growth and witness to the world. Eph4:15-16; John13:34-35; 17:20-21

5) You can't squeeze deep community into an overloaded schedule—Wise people know that friendships, marriage or parenting take time and are of greater value than achievements. Matt 16:26

6) The perfect, eternal love relationship between Father, Son, and Spirit was ripped apart to restore us to God and reconcile us to one another. And God has given us this ministry of reconciliation. Luke 22:44; Mark 15:34; 2Cor5:14-21

GROWING NOTES

- 1) Why do you think relationships can be so messy? The acknowledgment of struggle and failure should not overshadow the hopeful truth that in Christ relationships can be repaired, maintained and flourish. Explain.
- 2) Read Genesis 2:18, 25. It's striking that in Gen 2:18 the "fall" hasn't occurred and man is in a perfect relationship with God yet, God says it is not good for man to be alone. Why? Short of torture, society's worst punishment is solitary confinement. Explain.
- 3) You can only be loved to the extent that you are known. You can only be completely loved if you are completely known. What are the two unhealthy extremes to relationships and the three relational profiles they represent? Which one most represents your struggle in relationships?
- 4) Review the six statement of a healthy understanding of relationships along with corresponding verses. Which one(s) are most convicting to you and which one(s) are most comforting? What are your next steps to make a relationship with God and others a greater value, priority and practice? Pray