

Building A Solid Foundation For A Healthy Marriage

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God Created Us in His Image

Genesis 1:26-27

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20	Holy Spirit	spirit	natural light conscience wisdom sensitivity creativity
Isaiah 55:8-9	Father	soul	mind
John 3:16			emotions
John 5:30			will
John 1:14	Son	body	seeing hearing tasting smelling feeling

God created us in His image with a body, soul and spirit. It was the desire of God to have fellowship with us so that He could share His life with us. Until sin came, God and man had perfect fellowship. God came and talked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden each evening in the cool of the evening. (Genesis 3:8) They could enjoy this fellowship because sin and fear had not yet come into the world. “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” (1 John 4:18)

Man Was Given Freedom of Choice

Genesis 2:16-17

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”

Man's Choices

obey and live
disobey and die

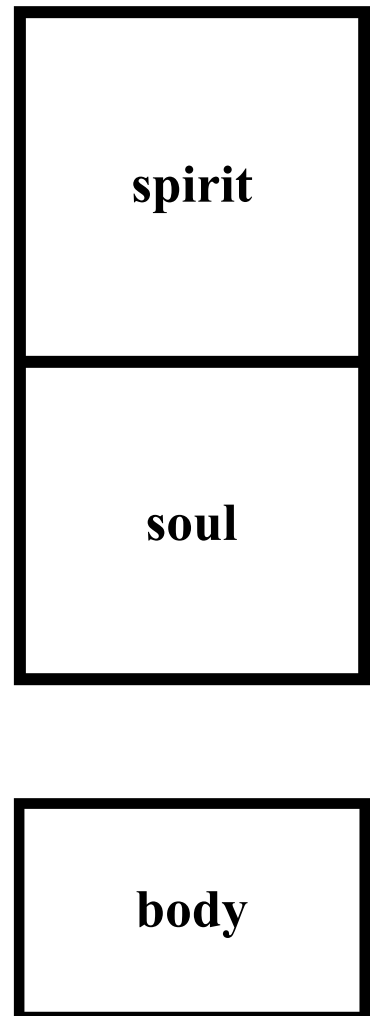
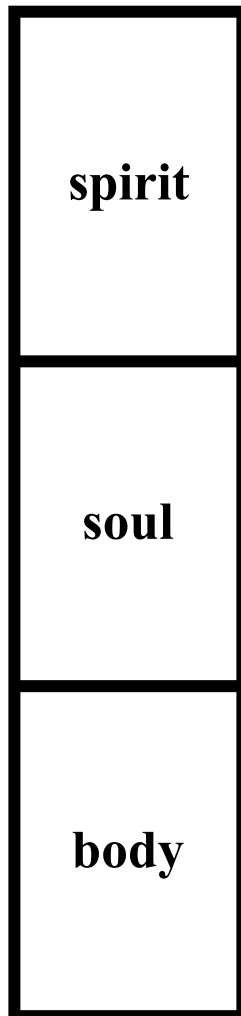
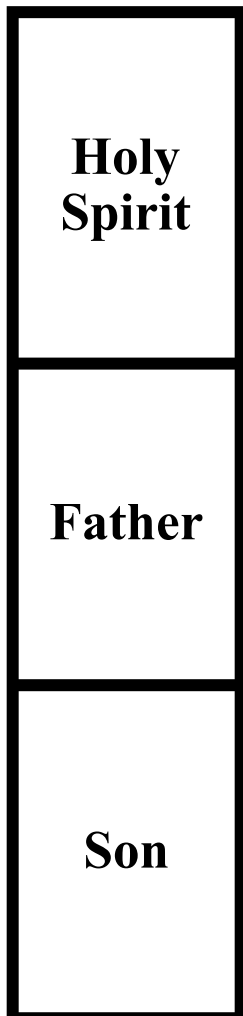
Kinds of Death

spiritual death

separation of man
from God

physical death

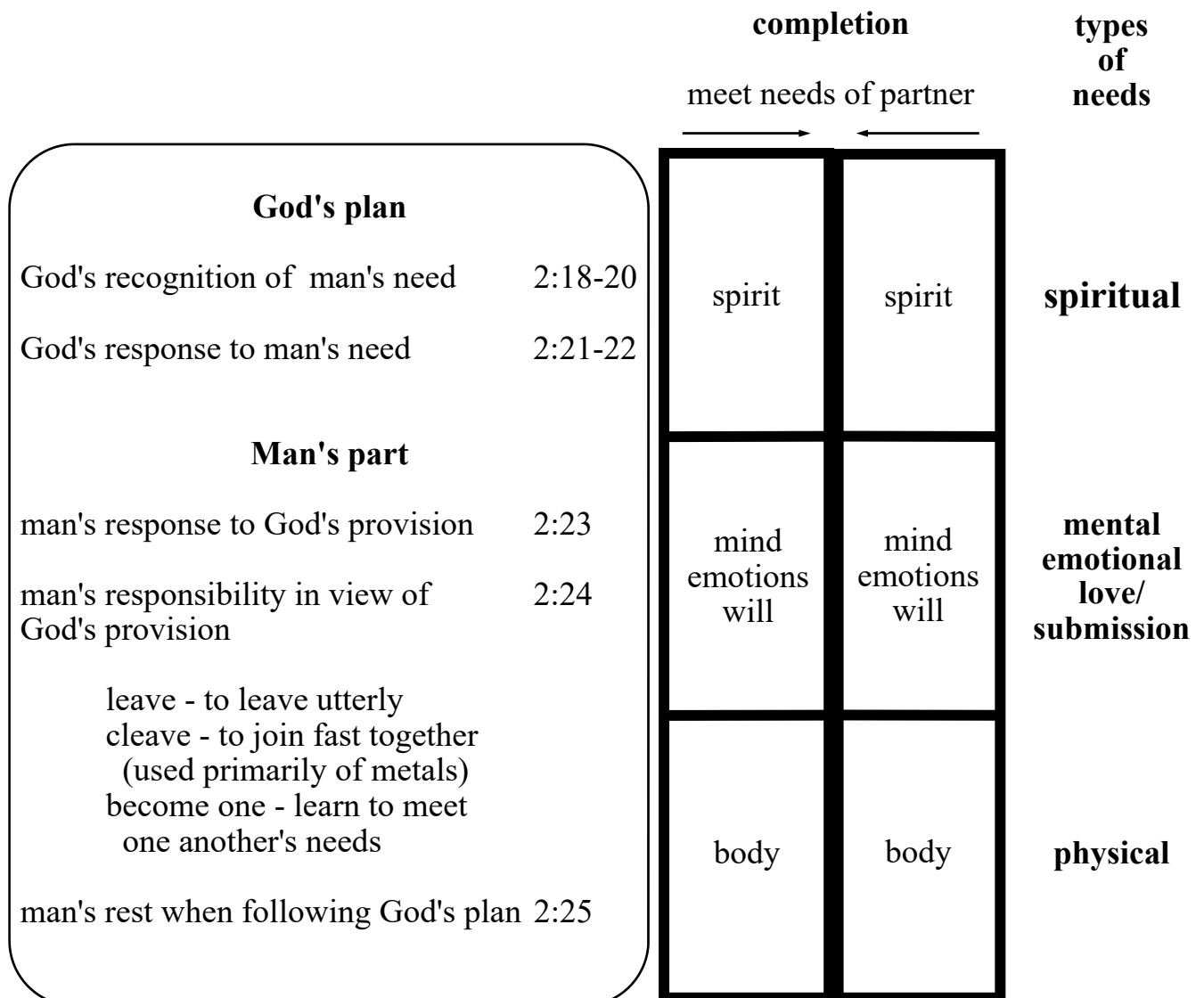
separation of the body
from the soul and spirit



God's Design For a Godly Marriage

Genesis 2:18-25

“And the LORD God said, ‘*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was* its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: ‘This *is* now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”



Sin Entered God's Creation

Genesis 3:1-7

Satan's attacks

He questioned the Word of God
He called God a liar

1 John 2:15-17

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that *is* in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world.

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

Three ways we are tempted Genesis 3:6

1. **the lust of the flesh**
the woman saw that the tree was good for food
2. **the lust of the eyes**
and that it was pleasant to the eyes
3. **the pride of life**
and a tree to be desired to make one wise

Genesis 3:1-7

“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden”?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.”’ Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”

Sin Caused Us to Abandon God

Genesis 3:7-13

We abandoned God as a result of sin

Five things we experienced when we abandoned God

shame guilt separation from Godf fear blame

These five things immediately affected marriage

Shame

Genesis 3:7 “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”

Guilt

Genesis 3:11 “And He said, ‘Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?’”

Separation from God (and each other)

Genesis 3:8 “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”

Fear

Genesis 3:10 “So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’”

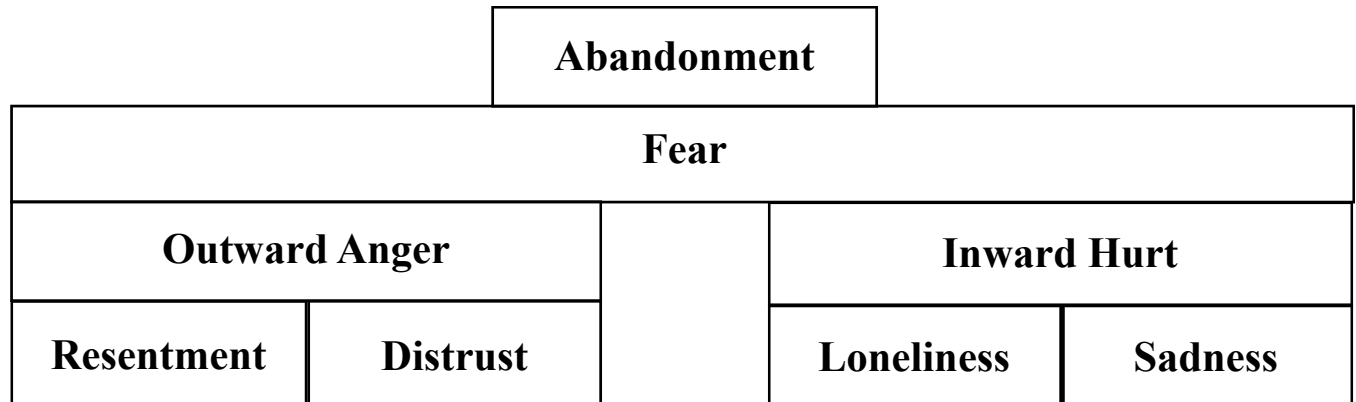
Blame

Genesis 3:12-13 “Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ And the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What *is* this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’”

Sin Caused Abandonment of One Another

Psalm 27:10

“When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me.”



When we feel abandoned, it immediately brings fear into our lives. When fear is turned outward, it becomes anger. When fear is turned inward, it becomes hurt. Anger will produce resentment and distrust while hurt will produce loneliness and sadness. The following list gives us some common forms of abandonment:

physical abandonment	no one was there to be with me because of: absence abuse addictions
mental abandonment	no one was there to answer my questions
social abandonment	no one was there to show me how to develop good relationships with others
emotional abandonment	no one was there to listen and to understand me
spiritual abandonment	no one was there to lead me back to God

Sin Produced Serious Consequences

Sin affected our relationship with God

Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned ...”

Sin affected our spirit, our soul, and our relationship with others

Romans 1:18-32

spirit	natural light conscience wisdom sensitivity creativity	Romans 1:19-20 Romans 1:21 Romans 1:22 Romans 1:23 Romans 1:24-25
soul	mind emotions will	Romans 1:26-28
body	lifestyle	Romans 1:29-32

God Wants to Restore Our Relationship to Him

God loves us with an everlasting love

Jeremiah 31:3

“The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.’”

God sent Christ to pay the penalty for our sin

John 3:17

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Christ paid for our sins by shedding His blood on the cross

1 Peter 2:21-24

“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ‘Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth’; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed.”

God showed He was satisfied by raising Christ from the dead

1 Corinthians 15:3-6

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.”

God accepted the payment of Christ for sin and now offers us life

2 Corinthians 5:21

“For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Restoring Our Relationship to God

Acts 20:21

“Testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

What is repentance?

Repentance is turning from sin and turning to God

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

“For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

What is faith?

Saving faith is believing that Christ died for your sins, that God raised Christ from the dead and that you are depending on Christ's payment for your sins and not your own efforts to be right with God. It includes three parts:

1. a firm persuasion based on hearing that what God has said about Christ and His death and resurrection are true - 1 Corinthians 15:3-6
2. a personal surrender to Him - John 1:12
3. a new walk produced by such a surrender - 2 Corinthians 5:7

How do we become Christians?

Acts 16:31

“So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”

Romans 10:9-13


“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’”

Recreated in the Image of God

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

God recreated us in His image at the moment of salvation

1 Corinthians 6:19-20		
	Holy Spirit	spirit
		natural light conscience wisdom sensitivity creativity
Isaiah 55:8-9		mind
John 3:16	Father	soul
John 5:30		emotions will
John 1:14	Son	body
		seeing hearing tasting smelling feeling

God recreated us at the moment of salvation by placing His Holy Spirit in our human spirit. (Acts 1:8, 2:38; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14) This gave us new desires so that we now have the desire to please God. However, we cannot please God in our own strength. (Romans 7:15-25) Christ also gave us power to change as we submit to the power of the Holy Spirit, instead of depending on our own strength. (John 15:5; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:1, 13, 16)

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

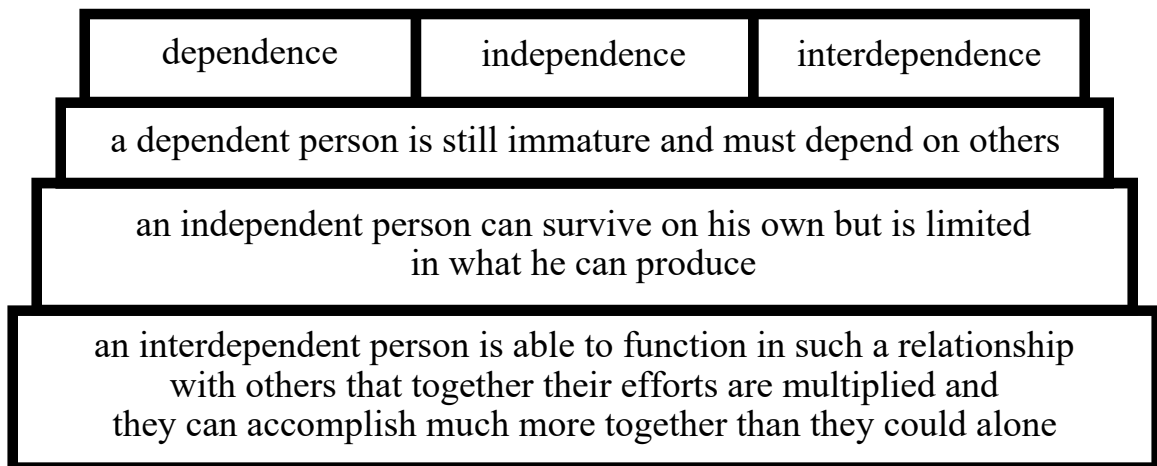
Restoring Our Relationships to One Another

Ephesians 4:12-16

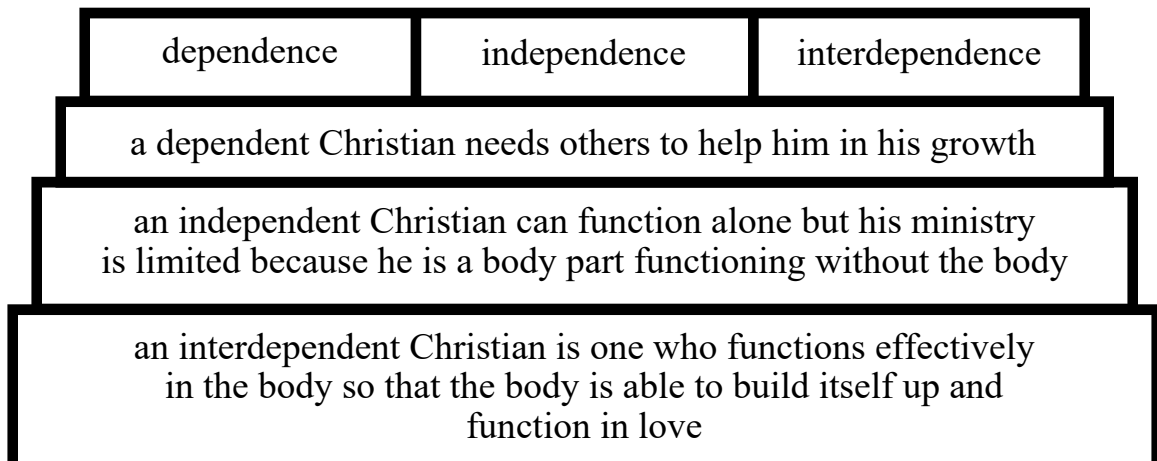
Restored relationships are based on the following:

- growing in spiritual maturity - verse 12
- having a unity based on the faith - verse 13
- avoiding spiritual retardation - verse 14
- learning to speak the truth in love - verse 15
- learning to function as interdependent people - verse 16

Three stages of human development



Three stages of spiritual development

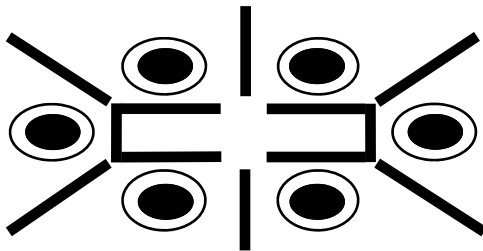


Two Types of Relationships

1 John 4:18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Fear-Based Relationships

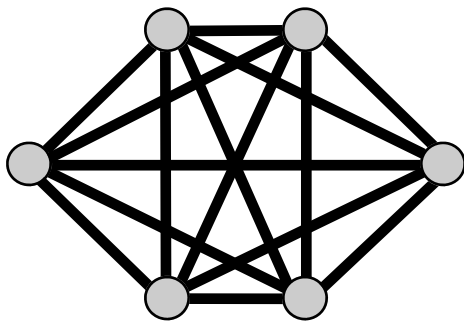


fear relationships

- ◆ relationships controlled by fear
- ◆ everyone erects barriers with others
- ◆ everyone creates a shell to protect their feelings
- ◆ no trust
- ◆ no communication

Before we placed our trust in Christ, our relationships became more and more controlled by fear. By the time most couples, who are not Christians, get married, fear-controlled relationships control their lives. Only after we place our trust in Christ and begin to understand the love of Christ for us can we begin to move toward love-based or healthy relationships.

Love-Based Relationships



healthy relationships

- ◆ relationships are controlled by love
- ◆ barriers have been replaced by acceptance
- ◆ shells have been replaced by openness
- ◆ trust is a characteristic of relationships
- ◆ communication is direct

Once we place our trust in Christ, we can begin to move from relationships that are controlled by fear to relationships that are controlled by the love of Christ for us.

1 John 4:10-11

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

Moving From Fear to Love

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Building Godly relationships based on God's love for us

The New Testament speaks of forty-three things we are either to avoid in our relationship with one another or are to practice in our relationship to one another. Twelve are things we are told to avoid and thirty-one are things we are told to do. If we want to build the godly relationship that God intended us to have, we need to learn to depend on God's strength to avoid the things we are commanded to avoid and practice the thing we are commanded to practice. The following things are necessary to understand if we choose to change from fear-based relationships to godly, love-based relationships.

We realize we can do nothing in our own strength

John 15:5

“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

We realize we can do all things through the strength that Christ provides

Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

We choose to submit to God

James 4:7-10

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

Submitting to God is summarized in ten commands in these verses. We submit to God as we ask Him to take control. We resist the devil by using Scripture. We deal with sin in our lives by sorrow and repentance. We humble ourselves before God and He then lifts us up.

Twelve Things Which Destroy Relationships

1. **Let us not judge one another any more** - to assume the office of judge and condemn another

Romans 14:13

“Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in *our* brother's way.”

2. **Do not go to law with one another** - to have lawsuits

1 Corinthians 6:7

“Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather *let yourselves* be cheated?”

3. **Stop depriving one another** - in marriage, to use sex as a weapon to get even with one another rather than as a way to meet the needs of one another

1 Corinthians 7:5

“Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”

4. **Do not bite one another** - to wound the soul
5. **Do not devour one another** - to make a habit of wounding the soul
6. **Do not consume one another** - the act of swallowing down

“bite-devour-consume” speaks of the process which destroys a relationship

Galatians 5:15

“But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!”

7. **Do not challenge one another** - to call forth as a contest (hence to stir up what is evil in another)
8. **Do not envy one another** - envy is the feeling of displeasure produced by hearing of or witnessing the advantage or prosperity of another

Galatians 5:26

“Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

Twelve Things Which Destroy Relationships - Continued

9. Do not lie to one another - to deceive by telling lies to one another

Colossians 3:9

“Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds...”

10. See that no one repays another with evil for evil - used to speak of the reverse of doing good to one another

1 Thessalonians 5:15

“See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.”

11. Do not speak against one another - to speak against or slander

James 4:11

“Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.”

12. Do not complain against one another - to groan (used of an inward, unexpressed feeling of sorrow)

James 5:9

“Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!”

Destroying relationships

The twelve things which are mentioned above will always bring fear into a marriage or any other relationship. They will always destroy trust and break down communication between individuals and groups. God says we can choose to obey His Word and build good relationships or we can choose to satisfy self and destroy relationships and replace them with fear.

1 John 4:18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

31 Things That Build Relationships

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

God calls us to:

1. **Accept one another** - to take to oneself, signifying a special interest or welcome on the part of the receiver

Romans 15:7

“Therefore receive (accept) one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.”

2. **Admonish one another** - instruction which is primarily a warning against things that are wrong

Romans 15:14

“Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.”

Colossians 3:16

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

3. **Bear one another's burdens** - to bear the weights that are pressing down on another

Galatians 6:2

“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

4. **Bear with one another** - to hold up against a thing and so to bear with, endure

Ephesians 4:2

“With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love...”

Colossians 3:13

“Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.”

Building Relationships - Continued

God calls us to:

5. **Build up one another** - to promote the spiritual growth and development of character of believers, by example and by teaching, suggesting such spiritual progress is the result of patient labor

Romans 14:19

“Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

6. **Care for one another** - to have a great concern for others which causes us to share ourselves with one another

1 Corinthians 12:25

“That there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.”

7. **Comfort one another** - to come to the side of another and provide comfort, encouragement or exhortation

1 Thessalonians 4:18

“Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

Hebrews 10:25

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 3:13

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

8. **Be comforted together through faith in one another** - to encourage one another by the mutual faith that we have in one another as well as our joint faith in the Lord

Romans 1:12

“That is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.”

Building Relationships - Continued

God calls us to:

9. Have compassion one for another - to suffer with another

1 Peter 3:8

“Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous...”

10. Confess your sins to one another - to confess openly and freely

James 5:16

“Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

11. Be devoted to one another - to have a tender love for one another such as the love of parents for children and children for parents

Romans 12:10

“*Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another...”

12. Fellowship with one another - the sharing together of our lives

1 John 1:7

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

13. Forgive one another - to bestow a favor unconditionally so that things from the past are not held against the other person. The failure to forgive one another is one of the greatest hindrances to spiritual growth and development.

Ephesians 4:32

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”

Colossians 3:13

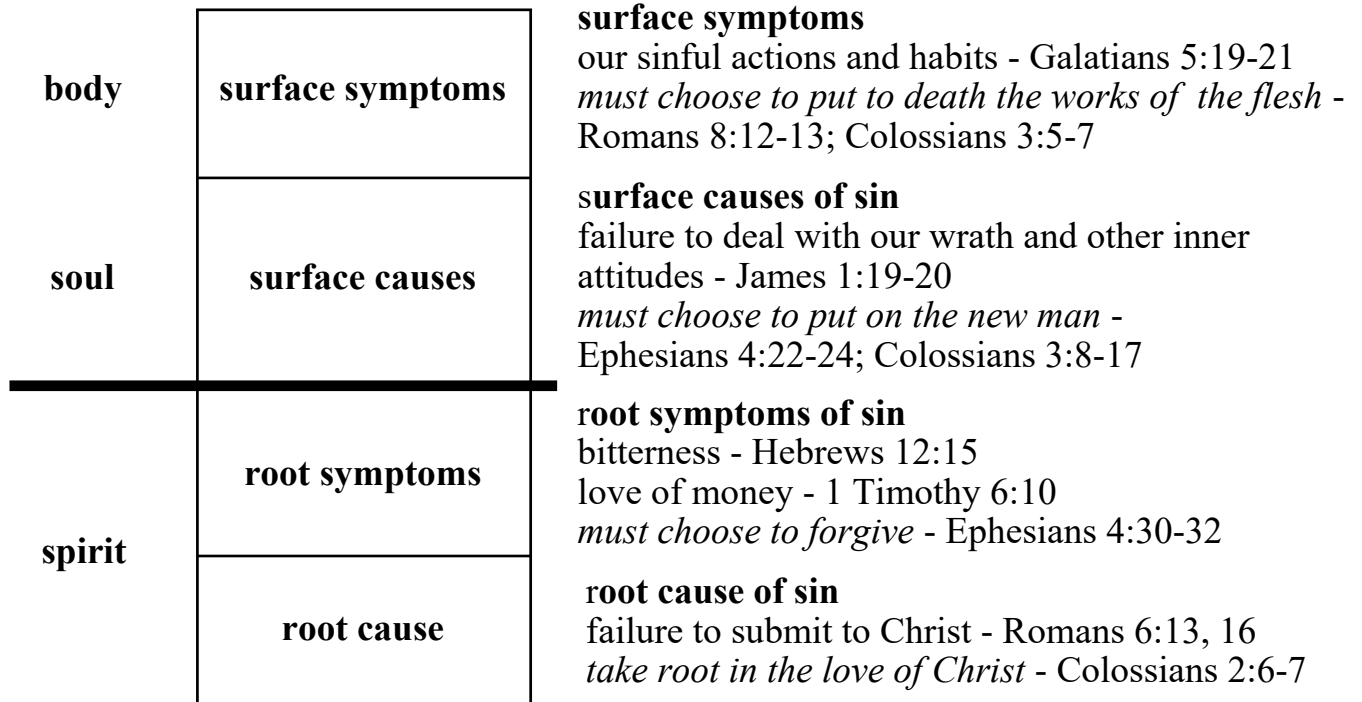
“Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.”

Building Relationships - Continued

How roots affect growth

Hebrews 12:15

“Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled....”



Dealing with roots

Ephesians 4:30-32

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”



Building Relationships - Continued

God calls us to:

- 14. Seek what is good for one another and for all men** - that which is good in its character and beneficial in its effect

1 Thessalonians 5:15

“See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.”

- 15. Greet one another** - to greet, welcome and make feel comfortable

Romans 16:16

“Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.”

1 Corinthians 16:20

“All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.”

2 Corinthians 13:12

“Greet one another with a holy kiss.”

1 Peter 5:14

“Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.”

- 16. Be hospitable to one another** - to show love to a guest

1 Peter 4:9

“*Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.*”

- 17. Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another** - to make yourself low of mind and show respect to one another

1 Peter 5:5

“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’”

- 18. Be kind to one another** - to be good, pleasant and gracious even to those who are ungrateful and evil

Ephesians 4:32

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”

Building Relationships - Continued

God calls us to:

19. Be members one of another - members are parts of the body and we are called to have the same relationship to each other as parts of the body

Romans 12:5

“So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

Ephesians 4:25

“Therefore, putting away lying, ‘*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*’ for we are members of one another.”

20. Be of the same mind one to another - to have the same concern and regard for one another that we have for ourselves

Romans 12:16

“Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.”

Romans 15:5

“Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus...”

21. Be at peace with one another - to bring to peace, to reconcile or to keep peace

Mark 9:50

“Salt *is* good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”

1 Thessalonians 5:13

“And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.”

22. Pray for one another - keep continuing to pray for one another

James 5:16

“Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

23. Regard one another as more important than self - to value and highly respect one another

Philippians 2:3

“*Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

Building Relationships - Continued

God calls us to:

- 24. Serve one another as a slave** - to serve as a slave, viewed as a relationship to his master

Galatians 5:13

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

- 25. Employ your gift in serving one another** - to be a servant, attendant, to serve, wait upon, minister, viewed as a relationship to our work

1 Peter 4:10

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

- 26. Stimulate one another to love and good deeds** - a sharpening of a feeling or action which causes a greater desire to love and do good deeds

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

- 27. Submit to one another** - to place yourself under the authority of another

Ephesians 5:21

“Submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

- 28. Teach one another** - to give positive instruction

Colossians 3:16

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

- 29. Wait for one another** - to make sure that all share equally in the love feast (potluck) and none are left out by the selfishness of others

1 Corinthians 11:33

“Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.”

Building Relationships - Continued

God calls us to:

30. Wash one another's feet - speaks of service to one another that will produce a feeling of acceptance and comfort

John 13:14

“If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.”

31. Love one another - this speaks of the kind of love that Christ showed by His self-sacrifice and obedience to God. It is primarily a decision of the will rather than a feeling.

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 15:12, 17

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

“These things I command you, that you love one another.”

Romans 13:8

“Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

1 Peter 1:22

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart...”

1 John 4:7, 11-12

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.”

1 Thessalonians 1:3

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

2 Thessalonians 1:3

1 Peter 4:8

1 John 3:11, 23

2 John 5