

## Royal Family Relationships

### Introduction

The focus of this next series of studies is God's grace provision for healthy relating to one another that accomplishes His purposes. We will examine biblical principles allowing us to see different aspects of Christian relationships, unhealthy relational patterns & what relating like Christ looks like.

Boiled down to its most basic & unchanging element, life is about relationships. Everything else, our ambitions, vocation, possessions, etc. are simply the stage on which we play out our relationships. Every other goal or pursuit in life is ultimately motivated to enhance our relationships, to make ourselves appear more desirable or to prove to others that we are desirable. In the end, the relationship that counts is with God and we discover that orienting to Him was the issue all the way through.

The 2 most important relationships in life are with God and with self.

God – bringing our desires, beliefs & behaviors into conformity to His will

Self – learning to manage your own inner processes, entering into a growth process in which you eliminate faulty thinking & embrace God's mind-set

As we are more and more aligned with God & His plan for us, we are able to resolve relational conflicts within ourselves & with others.

God made us, designed our souls to operate according to the patterns of His own inner faculties and processing.

We are born totally disoriented to His patterns of thinking and therefore we develop our ideas & beliefs totally contrary to Him.

All of life, especially the Christian life is a journey of inner transformation back into the image & likeness of our original design & beyond.

Our condition at birth – Universal & common to all human beings

Spiritually dead - unable to understand spiritual truths Eph 2:1-3

Spiritually incapable – unable to understand spiritual truth 1Co 2:14

Sinful Nature – we naturally believe that we & what we want is the most important issue in the universe. Eph 2:3

We interpret every event in our life thinking that the world is supposed to revolve around us, leads us to false conclusions & wrong beliefs

Judicially unrighteous with a sense of our condemnation Rom 1:18-20

Living under the unconscious fear of death Heb 2:15

Born into a family with sinful parents that fail us & provide awful models of sinful behavior Ex 34:7 4 generation curse

Born into the devil's world of evil influence that moves us to live independent of God Eph 2:1-3

Without the ability to relate spiritually to God, to understand principles of truth & because we have a

self centered nature, 1 our beliefs about self & God & therefore our relationship to self & to God is a problem for everyone – no exceptions.

Self – Self Image, Self Esteem – what we believe about self, the value we assign to self in relation to others.

OSN – selfish, self-centered view of self in relation to everyone else.

False beliefs from performance orient & painful exp. = bad thought patterns

Insecure, guilt, shame, self-hatred, self-abuse, abusive inner dialogue/image

God – self-centered interpretations of life experiences force us into false views about God based on images of parental training & examples.

Religion, legalism, parental guilting & shaming – sinful fear of God.

Any biblical study of relationships must lay a foundation that explains our relationship to ourselves and to God.

## Discussion 1

### Divinely Designed Needs

God designed us to have needs. He did not make humans with inherent strength but in fact He made us weak, helpless and dependent on the help of others (Gen 2:18). He illustrates our helplessness by causing us to be born as babies, the neediest creatures on earth. He didn't make us with inherent wisdom but causes us to be without knowledge. Because of AOS, we inherit a nature and instincts that steer us in the wrong direction.

We experience our needs as deep desires and longings in our innermost being. He made us with a vacuum in our core, causing us to feel an emptiness within that compels us to fill it. God explains that His provision to fill our empty hearts is found in a relationship with Him (John 7:37-39).

John 7:37-39 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from his innermost being 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Thirsty – needs experienced as desires of the heart

Mt 5:6 – hunger & thirst for righteousness – desire for rightness with God

Jn 6:35 – Jesus-Bread/Life – come/Him never hunger; believe on Him never thirst

Jn 4:6-26 – woman at the well – living water & you will never thirst again

Jesus wants to identify those who were aware of their need for spiritual life

We experience our God given needs as deep desires and longings

Innermost Being – koilos Grk– empty, cavity, hole, womb, stomach, appetites

God designed an empty place in the heart of mankind

koilos is both the source of our thirst/desire and the place of fulfillment

When we attach our thirst to worldly objects we become slaves to desire

Romans 16:17-18 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause divisions and obstacles contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. 18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites (koilos – hungers); and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting

Phil 3:18-19 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite (koilos – thirst), and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Without God, man chooses to fill the emptiness with false objects

Choosing to attach your hunger/thirst to objects of pleasure causes you to become addicted to earthly things, believing they can fulfill you

Spirit – GHS indwelling the body of a believer and ministry to his mind

GHS is described as living water filling the emptiness of man's heart

Relationship with God is the divine means of fulfillment of the human soul

Human Needs:

Unconditional love from God, man and self –

God: Rom 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Man: John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another

Self: Galatians 5:14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

To fully know and be known by another

1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.

In the beginning of our lives we are authentic & honest, able to be our self.

As we encounter the hardships of life, we shut down & close ourselves off

A/E covered themselves up, built barriers between them

Throughout life we long to be unconditionally loved & accepted as we are, without having to hustle for our worthiness.

Acceptance, inclusion and belonging – family

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

He made us to need to belong with others, to be part of something with great meaning & purpose, larger than ourselves.

Great joy is found in pulling together for a great cause, giving your self sacrificially to bless others.

Recognition, praise and appreciation for our contributions

Mat 25:21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.'

Spiritual accomplishments honor God & His grace – we are vessels

Ability to edify and impact others – make a difference – 1Thes 5:11

Just as God designed us with needs, so He has made provision for those needs

God created us with an empty place in our hearts that yearns to be filled. The filling of this emptiness is a God given need, which is experienced as a desire to be known and loved. We are driven by this desire to meet our needs and to fill this emptiness. We try to fill it with many things but God has designed us in such a way that only when we are filled by Him do we feel complete.