

PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

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RELATIONSHIP PRIORITY

STUDY GUIDE



RELATIONSHIP PRIORITY

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:26-27

And God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.

Genesis 2:7-8

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed.

Genesis 2:18-24

And the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto 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 shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Genesis 5:1-3

This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made He him; male and female created He them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created. And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

THEME

God's relationship order can be seen from the very beginning. Man's first relationship was between his Creator and him. Man's second relationship was between him and the woman which God built especially for the man. Man's third relationship came as a result of the intimacy of his second relationship. These three relationships are listed in their order of importance. All other relationships known to man must be subservient to these relationships. The relationship that produced man is the most vital relationship that man can ever know. It seems ironic that the most vital relationship is the most neglected relationship, yet this relationship affects all other relationships.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In the beginning God created man. Not only was man made by God, he was also made for God.
 - 1. God created man in the image and likeness of God. No other creature was made in the image of God.
 - 2. To be made in the image and likeness of God is to have the unique creative ability of God.
 - 3. Man has the ability to create, judge, and choose.
 - 4. Man is not equal to God, nor does he have the same power, abilities, and attributes which God possesses.
 - 5. God created man to dominate, rule, or oversee the earth. (Genesis 1:26-28)
- B. Man's first relationship was with God, his Creator.
 - 1. God is very interested in man. He talked with man on a regular basis. He gave man the responsibility of tilling and protecting the garden in which God had placed him. (Genesis 2:15)
 - 2. He gave man the assignment of naming all the animals. Whatever name Adam gave to the animals was final. God did not change any of their names. (Genesis 2:18-20)
- C. Man's second relationship was with his wife, whom God custom-built for him. (Genesis 2:21-24)

- D. Man's third relationship, which is the parent/child relationship, came as a result of the intimacy of the second relationship.
- E. The relationship between man and God is the most vital relationship because it affects all other relationships.

II. MAN'S FALL AND GOD'S INTERVENTION

- A. God commanded Adam not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but He did not prevent Adam from making the wrong choice. (Genesis 3:1-7)
- B. Because of Adam's willful disobedience, the consequence of disobedience is experienced by the entire human race.
- C. Adam's sin greatly affected the intimate fellowship between God and man.
- D. God made provision for man to regain right standing with Him and to once again enjoy intimate fellowship with Him.
 - 1. Faith in God and obedience to God place one in right standing with God.
 - 2. The "law," which was introduced to the nation of Israel, was designed to emphasize these two points.
 - 3. The Israelites missed the point; they failed to act in faith and placed their emphasis on works; consequently, they were disobedient to God.
- E. Finally, God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to the earth to rectify this relationship problem. (Galatians 4:4)
- F. One who receives Jesus into his heart enters into a Father/son relationship with his Creator.
- G. Fellowship with God is made possible through the Holy Spirit, Who will come and live in the hearts of those who believe and receive Him.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit allows one the opportunity to become intimate with the Father.
 - 2. Intimacy with the Father precedes fruitbearing.

III. ACCEPTING AND RECEIVING JESUS

- A. "Accept," in this context, means to consent or agree to.
- B. "Receive," in this context, means to take into one's possession.
- C. One can accept Jesus without receiving Jesus. One can mentally assent to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God without receiving Jesus as his Lord and Savior.
 - 1. Receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior requires one to repent, or turn from his old lifestyle.
 - 2. One must turn **from** sin before he turns **to** Jesus.
- D. Receiving Jesus into one's heart is a personal act of faith which produces the new birth spoken of in John 3:3-8.
- E. Salvation through Jesus Christ is God's intervention for mankind.
 - 1. Scripture reveals the requirements for salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)
 - a. One must believe in his heart, not his head, that Jesus died for **our** sins, and that God raised Him from the dead.
 - b. The believer must confess Jesus as his Lord.
 - c. One who fulfills these requirements experiences the "new birth."
 - 2. One who is truly born again will demonstrate the "new birth" by a changed lifestyle.
 - 3. Faith, not works, produces the "new birth."
- F. Receiving Jesus into one's heart is the beginning of what should be a powerful and intimate relationship with God.

IV. FRUITBEARING INTIMACY

- A. According to *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, "fruit" is the visible expression of power working inwardly and invisibly.

1. The visible expressions of hidden desires are the works of the flesh.
 2. The invisible power of the Holy Spirit in union with the spirit of the believer produces the fruit of the Spirit.
- B. Intimacy which produces fruit requires two to become one, both naturally and spiritually.
- C. In John 15, Jesus illustrates fruitbearing by comparing Himself to a vine and the believers to the branches. (John 15:1-16)
- D. Jesus prayed and asked the Father to make us one with Him, just as He and the Father are one. (John 17:20-23)
- E. When man's spirit unites with the Holy Spirit, fruit will be produced.
- F. Intimacy produces fruit, but we must not focus on the fruit.
1. Often in a marriage, the fruit of the intimate relationship becomes the focus.
 2. As believers, we must not focus on the fruit; we must focus on the intimacy that produced the fruit.
- G. Intimacy is defined as acquaintance, association, or familiarity. It relates to or is indicative of one's deepest nature. Intimacy is very personal, private, and informal.
1. One who is intimate with the Father will be familiar with the Father.
 2. One who is intimate with the Father will cherish private time with Him.
 3. One who is intimate with the Father will not be formal when he communicates with Him.

V. UNDER THE INFLUENCE

- A. "Influence" is defined as a power affecting a person, thing, or course of events. It is also defined as the power to sway or affect, based on prestige, wealth, ability, or position.

- B. One who is under the influence of the Word and Spirit will respond as one who is under the influence of alcohol; he will do things out of the ordinary.
- C. Everyone is influenced by something or someone.
 - 1. Influence is not always realized by the person influenced, but others can easily see the affect that influence has on an individual.
 - 2. Influence will affect an individual either positively or negatively.
- D. One who subjects himself to the Word of God and the Spirit of God will come under the influence of God. (Psalm 91:1; Luke 1:35; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:4,12,13; Ephesians 5:18-21; Colossians 3:16)
 - 1. When God's Word enters into our hearts, it affects the way we think, speak, and act.
 - 2. One who is under the influence of the Holy Spirit has the ability to think, say, and do things that are extraordinary. We refer to these extraordinary feats as something supernatural because they exceed the natural ability of the individual.
- E. It is imperative that we subject ourselves to the right influence; otherwise, we will find ourselves operating contrary to the ways of God.
- F. Friends and associates greatly influence our lives; consequently, we should exercise caution when developing relationships.

VI. ANOINTING AND INSPIRATION

- A. The production of Godly fruit is directly related to anointing and inspiration.
 - 1. "Anointing" relates to separation and consecration.
 - 2. "Inspiration" relates to the influence of the Holy Spirit.
- B. It is imperative that we subject ourselves to both anointing and inspiration.

- C. One who is consecrated to God and inspired by God will produce fruit.
- D. Union is inevitable when we make ourselves available to God and subject to His desires.

VII. DEDICATION AND CONSECRATION

- A. One who is truly dedicated to God should seek God before entering into other relationships.
- B. Other relationships can be an asset or a liability.
 - 1. Those who are not married should rely on the Spirit of God to unite them with the mate of God's choosing.
 - 2. Those who act independently of God will eventually suffer the consequences.
 - 3. In order for God's will to be accomplished in the most effective way in our lives, we must be united with the most compatible mate or partner.
 - 4. We are incapable of choosing the proper mate or partner without the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
 - 5. Many ministries have failed to accomplish their ordained goals because of negative influence from their mate or associates.
- C. Children are the fruit of the intimate relationship between the husband and wife.
 - 1. Children are greatly influenced by their parents.
 - 2. When the parents are not in agreement, the children are placed in a precarious situation.
 - 3. Mates who do not share the same vision will create a divided house.
 - 4. The relationship between our children and God is greatly affected by our relationship with God.
 - 5. These statements also apply to spiritual relationships.

- D. All of our relationships should be dedicated and consecrated to God, but this act will not occur unless we are dedicated and consecrated to God in our personal lives.
- E. Our mates and children should understand that our relationship with God is the number-one priority in our lives.
 - 1. When the God-man relationship becomes the number-one focus in our lives, the other relationships will be maximized.
 - 2. Our relationship with God influences our relationship with others.
 - 3. God does not mistreat and abuse; He nurtures and protects.
 - 4. These facts also apply to ministry and business associates.

VIII. SUMMARY

- A. We were created by God and for God; therefore, God should be the most important object in our lives.
- B. Through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, God has restored the relationship between Himself and mankind.
- C. Accepting and receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is the most important relationship we will ever experience.
- D. The fruit produced as a result of our relationship with God will affect all other relationships.
- E. All relationships influence us in some way; consequently, we should seek God concerning our relationships.
- F. We should never enter into any relationship that has not been ordained by God.
- G. We must subject ourselves to relationships that produce or enhance anointing and inspiration.
- H. Dedication and consecration to God should be the prerequisite for all relationships.

IX. CONCLUSION

- A. It appears that we live in a time of unprecedented relationship problems. There must be some legitimate reason for these problems.
- B. I believe these problems are the result of minimizing or abandoning the God-man relationship.
- C. One who does not have a good relationship with God will not follow godly principles in other relationships.
- D. One who has a good relationship with God will exercise godly principles in other relationships.
- E. Our problems will never diminish until we put God first place in our lives and follow the leading of His Spirit.
- F. Remember the proper order of relationships: God; mate; and children and God, associates, and constituents.
- G. All other relationships must be prioritized behind these three relationships.

