

Relationships: Session 1

Relationships, especially that of the family, were designed by God. God's will is what's best for man.

Genesis 2:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

Being in the right relationships is so important. Not all relationships are healthy for us spiritually and/or emotionally.

As a follower of Christ, we are instructed by the bible to not be yoked or bound to one who is not also a follower of Christ. This would imply that we should believe in the same things and share in our principles and values.

2 Corinthians 6:14–18 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

This is especially true for the marriage relationship but not limited to it. Any relationship which will center around a binding contract would fall under the counsel of this biblical precept as well. At best, there will be contention arising from different perspectives, convictions, and values, and at worst, such a relationship could serve as a stumbling block to one's walk with God.

Total Isolation from the world is not what's in view. Jesus Christ ordained His followers to go into the world as His witnesses. However, He did not send them out alone.

Acts 1:4–5 ⁴ Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," *He said*, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1:8 "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

God has chosen to use us in His ministry of reconciliation. God desires for every person to come to know Him in a personal relationship. A huge part of our effectiveness in this ministry is directly related to our relationship with those to whom we have been sent.

Still, there are many dangers that await us in the world. Consider the high priestly prayer of Jesus for His disciples and, also the prayer with which He taught them to pray.

John 17:15–17 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. ¹⁶ "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Matthew 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Discuss the contrast between healthy and unhealthy relationships.

