



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie

Building Strong Relationships: God's Design for Marriage

OPENING & PRAYER

In today's message, we embarked on a new series focused on relationships, particularly marriage, and the challenges and opportunities they present. We began by acknowledging the universal desire for a close-knit home, a place of warmth, acceptance, and love. However, many of us did not grow up in such environments, and it's crucial to understand that we are not destined to repeat the past. Whether you had a troubled or seemingly perfect childhood, the goal is to build upon the previous generation's foundation and strive to create a better environment for our children.

Father, guide us through this study as we learn about relationships. I pray that the relationships in our life are strengthened and honor you. We take ownership over our relationships by putting you first in everything we do. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE:

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. Genesis 2:20-22

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 (Cleave) to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. Genesis 2:23-25

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 [a]ll 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. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:26-28

Be happy, yes, rejoice in the wife of your youth. Proverbs 5:18 LB

Your spring water is for you and you only, not to be passed around among strangers. Bless your fresh-flowing fountain! Enjoy the wife you married as a young man! Lovely as an angel, beautiful as a rose— don't ever quit taking delight in her body. Never take her love for granted! Why would you trade enduring intimacies for cheap thrills with a prostitute? for dalliance with a promiscuous stranger? Proverbs 5:17-20 The Message Bible

GO DEEPER:

We explored the biblical foundation of relationships, emphasizing that God designed your spouses to be significant tools in meeting our needs and longings. The fall and sin disrupted this design, but God remains the restorer of the home and relationships. The enemy knows that by attacking the family unit, he can cause widespread chaos, but God calls us to care deeply for your home and family

We discussed the importance of working on your relationships, understanding that what was once a natural, grace-giving relationship now requires supernatural enablement and hard work. God's perspective on marriage is that it is a sacred institution designed for intimacy, companionship, and mutual support. You are called to leave your parents, cleave to your spouses, and become one flesh, living without shame.

We also addressed the barriers that can hinder relationships, such as spiritual, mental, gender, and historical barriers. Overcoming these requires commitment, communication, caring, and a shared mission. By understanding and appreciating our differences, you can complement and complete one another rather than compete.

Finally, we emphasized the importance of having a spiritual foundation in relationships. As we grow closer to God, we naturally grow closer to each other. This journey requires commitment, communication, and a shared vision to impact others for Christ. By embracing these principles, we can build strong, healthy families that reflect God's love and purpose.

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. According to Genesis 2:20-25, what was God's original design for the relationship between man and woman? How does this passage describe the unity and intimacy intended in marriage?
2. In what ways do the differences between men and women, as described in the sermon, reflect God's design for complementing and completing one another? [\[35:40\]](#)
3. How can understanding the historical context of one's family background help in breaking the cycle of dysfunction and building a better future for the next generation? [\[39:25\]](#)
4. Reflect on your own family background. What steps can you take to break any negative cycles and create a nurturing environment for your family? [\[05:45\]](#)
5. Think about a specific area in your relationship where communication could be improved. What is one action you can take this week to open the doors of communication with your partner? [\[39:25\]](#)

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father, thank you for being the example of what our relationships should aspire to be. I pray for strength as we start to break those negative cycles that try to ruin our families. We know by putting you first, our relationship is stronger. So please bring the right people into our lives and remove the wrong ones. Help me be the example you wish me to be in leading my family, friends, and co-workers. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.