

**RELATIONSHIPS
DESIGNED BY
GOD**

I. God's Design For Relationships

A. The trinity demonstrates the intimacy of relationships between Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Genesis 1:26-27

26 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.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

I. God's Design For Relationships

B. God is love and that love is shown

1 John 4:8

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 John 4:16

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

I. God's Design For Relationships

C. Creation is an expression of love "God to God."



II. God's Design Extends To Us

A. We are most like God when we give love to others

1. God does not intend for man to be alone

The example of Adam

2. We are made to be in relationship with one another

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

John 13:35

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

II. God's Design Extends To Us

B. Our relationships need to imitate God

1. In walk

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

2. In service

John 13:15

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

II. God's Design Extends To Us

B. Our relationships need to imitate God

3. To encourage others

1 Corinthians 11:1

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

4. Jesus is our example of the perfect friend

III. Six Things To Model In Our Relationships

A. A friend is Forgiving

1. Jesus came to restore broken relationships

John 21:15-17

15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

III. Six Things To Model In Our Relationships

A. A friend is Forgiving - continued

2. We too should forgive one another

Ephesians 4:32

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

“To err is human; to forgive is divine”

“Love keeps no record of wrongs”

III. Six Things To Model In Our Relationships

B. A friend is Real

- 1. Jesus did not compromise who He was, but He met people right where they were**

Matthew 11:19

The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

III. Six Things To Model In Our Relationships

B. A friend is Real - continued

2. Jesus was a friend of sinners; He was not afraid to meet them on their level

Matthew 9:12-13

12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Real friends can accept you the way you are because they are confident of who they are

III. Six Things To Model In Our Relationships

C. A friend Imparts Truth

- 1. Jesus came to where people were but still spoke the truth in love**

Matthew 4:17

**From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say,
Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

III. Six Things To Model In Our Relationships

C. A friend Imparts Truth - continued

2. Real friends see you the way you are, but they won't leave you where you are

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Ephesians 4:15

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

III. Six Things To Model In Our Relationships

D. A friend is Embracing

Luke 18:16

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Luke 5:13

And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him

III. Six Things To Model In Our Relationships

E. A friend is Not Selfish

1. Jesus put our need ahead of His comfort

John 15:13

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2. We also need to learn to think of others first

Philippians 2:4

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

III. Six Things To Model In Our Relationships

F. A friend is Dedicated

1. Jesus did not give up on people

Luke 23:34

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

III. Six Things To Model In Our Relationships

F. A friend is Dedicated - continued

2. A real friend will stay beside you right through the very end

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 18:24

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

**DO YOUR
RELATIONSHIPS
IMITATE
CHRIST?**