

OUTWARD RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

Recap:

- What does our heart look like in four key relationships. How can we find meaning and purpose in and through these relationships?
 - 1) Upward – My relationship with God
 - Mark 12:29-30 – 29 Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’
 - How do we build a relationship with God?
 - i. Not by our good deeds, but by receiving His love. Just like a father gives love to a son, our heavenly Father gives us love. In fact, we love because He first loved us! 1 John 4:19. Take time daily to sit God’s love for you and be aware of it! Enjoy His presence. He enjoys yours!
 - 2) Inward – My relationship with myself
 - James 1:22-25 - 22 But be sure you live out the message and do not merely listen to it and so deceive yourselves. 23 For if someone merely listens to the message and does not live it out, he is like someone who gazes at his own face in a mirror. 24 For he gazes at himself and then goes out and immediately forgets what sort of person he was. 25 But the one who peers into the perfect law of liberty and fixes his attention there, and does not become a forgetful listener but one who lives it out—he will be blessed in what he does.
 - 3) Outward – My relationship with others
 - “Don’t allow self-promotion to hide in your hearts, but in authentic humility put others first and view others as more important than yourselves” Phil 2:3-5
 - By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." John 13:35
 - 4) Downward – My relationship with creation
- What is our Heart? It’s the seat of our intellect, emotions, desires, and attractions. The Gospel is centered on the heart!
 - What does the Bible say about our hearts?
 - Jeremiah 17:9-10 - *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? 10 “I the Lord search the heart and test the mind to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”*
 - What is the answer to a wicked heart and divided heart? And How do we guard our heart? Submission through Repentance
 - *Luke 5:32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.*
 - Repentance: The decision and action of leaving what God has prohibited and returning to what he has commanded
 - *Prov 4:23 – Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*
 - *Proverbs 3:5-6— Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.*
 - *Romans 12:2 – Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Downward Relationship – My Relationship with Creation

- What does a relationship with creation look like according to the Bible? Key scripture:
 - *Genesis 1:27-28 – God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth and subdue it! Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that moves on the ground.”*
- God modeled to use leadership as a man by creating and cultivating
 - Created: galaxies, planets, earth, plants, animals, and mankind
 - Cultivated: surrounded his creation with a nurturing environment for it to grow and mature. Placed Adam and Eve in the Garden and gave them everything they needed – including purpose!
- God created man in His own image, meaning **men were intended to lead like God.**
 - Genesis 1:27 states, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created them.”

God's Mandate to Men

- God's instructions to man to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and have dominion.
 - Genesis 1:28 says "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
 - To "subdue it" means to bring it under control. In other words, **God wants man to assume responsibility – to really own it!**
- Responsibilities of man to Create and Cultivate:
 - To bring things into existence and develop and nurture them.
 - It's what God, Himself, modeled. He created man not only to bring things into existence – whether that's a sports team, a marriage and family, a business, a ministry – **but also to develop and nurture**, to cultivate whatever it is he creates.
 - We lead by creating an environment for others to grow in. This takes intention!
 - **God created men to be social and spiritual leaders. Like God, men are designed to initiate (to create), and then, to follow through on what they started (to cultivate).**

The Consequences of Ignoring God's Mandate for Man

- The first consequence of man's passivity vs leading as God intended:
 - Adam standing by as Eve took from the tree and ate the fruit. He knew what she was doing was wrong but stood by and did not step in to lead her away from sin and into what God had commanded.
- Chaos occurs when men don't lead and don't accept their responsibilities to create and cultivate.
 - Example: Fathers abandoning (being passive) with their families and not leading. Disorder and confusion follow. Without a head of the house
 - Their children are more likely:
 - To die in infancy, live in poverty, end up in prison, use drugs, drop out of school
 - This not only applies to fathers physically absent but emotionally and spiritually absence too!
 - Families need a strong male figure to lead and love them. They yearn for this because that is how God made man's role.
 - **God did not intend for men to create chaos. God intended for men to create and cultivate—to solve problems, not create problems.**

Masculinity

- **Masculinity is not about being a natural-born leader, but about stepping up where God calls you to responsibility**
 - What is courage? The ability to do something that you are afraid of. Strength in the face of fear and pain.