

Relationships

Reality of Our Need

1. Human beings are characterized by their need and desire for relationship. God has made us in such a way that some of our needs can only be met in and through relationships.
2. The first negative thing God said about his creation, was "it is not good for man to be alone." (Gen. 2: 18-25)
 - a. The marriage relationship was God's solution for man's loneliness. He designed this relationship to bring two together as one.
 - b. No one was created to be self- sufficient, people were made to need each other.
3. Met needs build and strengthen relationships. Unmet needs erode and destroy them.

Role of Sin

1. Impact on us: The impact of sin is pervasive and devastating. Sin has distorted and damaged every dimension of the creation that God called "very good." (Gen. 1:31) it is a universal problem (Romans 3:10-12)
 - a. Sin has darkened our hearts (Romans 1: 21)
 - b. Sin causes us to behave in ways that are ugly (Romans 1: 29-31)
 - c. Sin binds and enslaves us, so that we do things we don't want to do (Romans7:15)
 - d. Sin leads to death (Romans 8: 7-8)
 - e. Sin distorts our relationships (Gal. 5: 19-21)
2. Influence on society
 - a. Addiction to power in this world
 - b. Addiction to lust
 - c. Addiction to greed
 - d. Addiction to worldliness, acceptance and popularity
 - e. Addiction to freedom and doing your own thing

Root of Selfishness

1. Most relationship difficulties eventually can be traced to the problem of selfishness.
2. Selfishness is the exclusive consideration by a person of his own interests. We are naturally self-seeking, self-centered beings.
3. Harmonious relationships require a choice to be other-centered, to value and consider another's interests, opinions, ideas and feelings. This kind of attitude was demonstrated by Jesus Christ (Phil. 2 3-4)

Requirements of Relationships

1. Commitment-a decision to join together in meeting each other's needs.

2. Mutual trust and respect-attitudes which are earned and do not exist until they are created.
4. Common goal-a stabilizer to long term relationships, should be agreed upon and maintained (Psalm 133: 1, Mathew 20: 25-28, Proverbs 11: 24-25)
5. Creativity-relationships develop our creative potential.
6. Continue new commitments-learn to adapt to changing needs to establish new goals.