

1. Before we can understand relationships between people, we must first understand the relationship of The Trinity.

God the Trinity consist of Three Persons connected by the essence of being God, functioning in their personhood within that essence, reflecting the greatness of their character and revealing truth and love in all of who They are and what They do. (Deut. 6:4, Matt. 28:19, Eph. 4:6, John 6:38, John 14:25-26, 1Cor. 12:4-6, 1 Pet. 1:1-2, 1 Cor. 8:6, Acts 5:3-4, Heb. 1:3-9)

“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!” – Deuteronomy 6:4

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” – Matthew 28:19

“One God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.” – Ephesians 4:6

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” – John 6:38

“These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” – John 14:25-26

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.” – 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.” – 1 Peter 1:1-2

“Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.” – 1 Corinthians 8:6

“But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain

your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” – Acts 5:3-4

“And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You’? And again, ‘I will be a Father to Him and He shall be a Son to Me’? And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, ‘And let all the angels of God worship Him.’ And of the angels He says, ‘Who makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire.’ But of the Son He says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your companions.” – Hebrews 1:3-9

2. Let’s consider a basic definition of a relationship.

A relationship in general can be defined as two or more people who are connected by various variables (e.g. physical birth, spiritual, legal, social, professional, organizational, geographical, life experiences, ethnicity, etc.) functioning together to accomplish common agendas.

3. God designed relationships to be more than just two or more people connected by various variables functioning together to accomplish common agendas.

Relationship were designed to be a community of people connecting together on the foundation of truth and love, to reflect the character of God and to accomplish God’s objectives for their existence individually and corporately. God created mankind to have communion with Him. God created mankind to be born into a family in order to have a fellowship that reflects a community of love that works together accordingly. (Acts 17:26-27, Gen. 1:26-28, 2:18, 4:1-2)

“And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope from Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.” – Acts 17:26-27

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He create him; male and female He created them. God bless them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’” – Genesis 1:26-28

“Then the Lord God said ‘It is not good for man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.’” – Genesis 2:18

“Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, ‘I have gotten a manchild with the help of the Lord.’ Again she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.”
– Genesis 4:1-2

4. God designed relationships with a hierarchy, roles, and responsibilities.

God created a hierarchy within relationships with corresponding roles and responsibilities. These relationships were designed to operate according to God’s authority and according to truth and love. (1 Cor. 11:3, Eph. 5:22, 6:1, Rom. 13:1, Col. 3:22, Rom. 3:9, Rom 10:12, 1 Cor. 11:11-12, Eph. 5:28, Titus 2:3-4, Eph. 4:4, 6:2-3, Deut. 1:16-17, Col. 4:1, Matt. 28:19-20, Lk. 10:30-37)

God and Man: “But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man.”
– 1 Corinthians 11:3a

Man and Woman: “And the man is the head of a woman” – 1 Corinthians 11:3b

Husband and Wife: “Wives be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”
– Ephesians 5:22

Parents and Children: “Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”
– Ephesians 6:1

People and Government: “Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.” – Romans 13:1

Employer and Employee: “Slaves in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.” – Colossians 3:22

God to Man: “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin” – Romans 3:9
“For there is not distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him.” – Romans 10:12

Man and Woman: “However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.”
– 1 Corinthians 11:11-12

Husband and Wife: “So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself.” – Ephesians 5:28

“Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands...” – Titus 2:3-4a

Parents and Children: “Fathers do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” – Ephesians 4:4

“Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise) so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on earth.” – Ephesians 6:2-3

People and Government: “Then I charged your judges at the time, saying, ‘Hear the cases between your fellow countrymen, and judge righteously between man and his fellow countryman, or the alien who is with him. You shall not show partiality in judgement; you shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not fear man, for the judgment is God’s. The case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me and I will hear it.’” – Deuteronomy 1:16-17

Employer and Employee: “Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.” – Colossians 4:1

Ethnicity to Ethnicity: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to end of the age.”
– Matthew 28:19-20

“Jesus replied and said, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on *them*; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.’ Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers’ *hands*?’ And he said, ‘The one who showed mercy toward him.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do the same.’”
– Luke 10:30-37

5. When mankind sinned against God, this disrupted God's design for relationships.

All of mankind has sinned against God resulting in disconnecting from God and disrupting God's design for relationships. Mankind rejected God's community of love and has chosen to show partiality to one another, to be divisive amongst one another, to elevate himself and to demean others as less than thereby revealing a prideful/unloving/ attitude that does not represent the community of God. (Rom. 3:23, 1 Jn. 3:4-6, 4:20, Jam. 2:9, Rom. 16:17-18. Lk.18:9-14)

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." – Romans 3:23

"Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. No one who abided in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him." – 1 John 3:4-6

"If someone says 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen."
– 1 John 4:20

"But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors." – James 2:9

"Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting."
– Romans 16:17-18

"And He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: God I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I pay tithes of all that I get. But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast saying, God be merciful to me, the sinner! I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted." – Luke 18:9-14