



## LOOKING FOR LOVE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

:: God created us to be in **RELATIONSHIP** with Him first!

The health and vitality of our vertical relationship with God impacts all of our horizontal relationships with others!

The key to rich and soul-satisfying relationships is to do them His way!

### Genesis 2:15-18

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.  
<sup>16</sup> But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden — <sup>17</sup> except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."  
<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone.

:: God designed us to live in **COMMUNITY!**

### Genesis 2:19-25

So the Lord God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. <sup>20</sup> He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

<sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and He brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'"

<sup>24</sup> This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

<sup>25</sup> Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

:: God does not want the "wow" to become **FOUL!**

:: Every relationship takes **WORK!**

### Jeremiah 29:11

"I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

## How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text "FAITH" to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

## For Further Reflection:

- Think of a time when you felt extremely close to God. How did that impact your horizontal relationships in a positive way? Conversely, when your relationship with God feels more stressed, how does that affect your horizontal relationships?
- How has the Lord been your "Ezer" in your life?
- Think of one or two relationships that feel strained or have tension; how is Holy Spirit asking you to grow, become more like Him, and receive His power to respond as He would?

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].  
Rev. Chris Conrad, Interim Sr. Pastor – September 19, 2021  
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