

God's Role in Relational Renovation

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 22nd

Reflection: Relationships were God's Idea. (Gen. 2:18; Mal 2:14-15; Mat 19:4-6)
As the Designer (Creator), He defines the "parts", Purposes, Process, and Promises of our partnerships.

As the Developer (Contractor) *He knows the codes (rules) and the storms (wrecks) we'll face, so he wants to "oversee" (Bishop/Shepherd) not only the Building process, but the "maintenance" to ensure a lasting life and love. (Jn 10:10,11; 27,28)*

He weaves and works to Shape us for eternity. (Ro. 8:28,29; Eph 2:10; 1 Pt 1:7; Isaiah 43:1-4; 48:10,11; Isaiah 64:8; Jer. 18:6; Isaiah 61:1-3; Mal. 3:17))

Direction: Because relationships have such eternal significance, it shouldn't surprise us that the world, the devil, and our own selfish flesh fight so hard to distract, deceived, divide and destroy them! (Mal. 2:16; Jn 10:10a; 1 Cor 7:1-5; 1 Tim. 5:14,15)

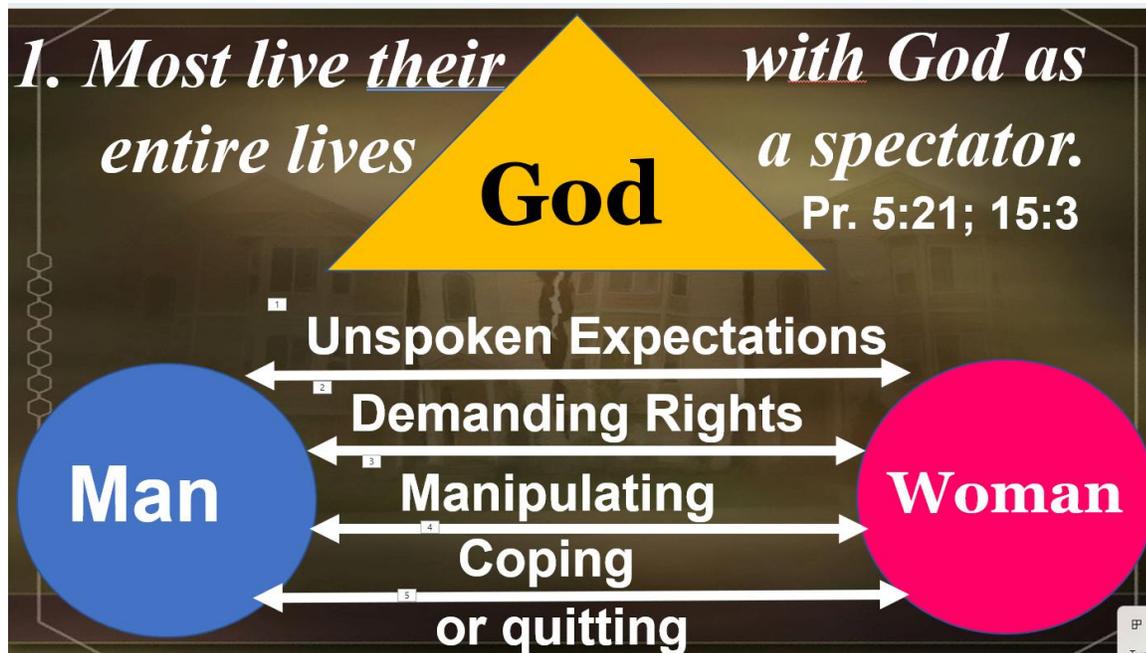
Thankfully, God is available to be the Defender (sustainer) of our relationships!

Col. 1:17 *"he is before all things, (pro: in front of, above) and by him all things consist."*
(synistēmi: stand/stay safe together!)

Ro. 8:31 *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"*

While God is always present and aware, *He is not always "partnering" with us.*
We must invite/allow Him to do so! Romans 8; Gal. 5:16-17

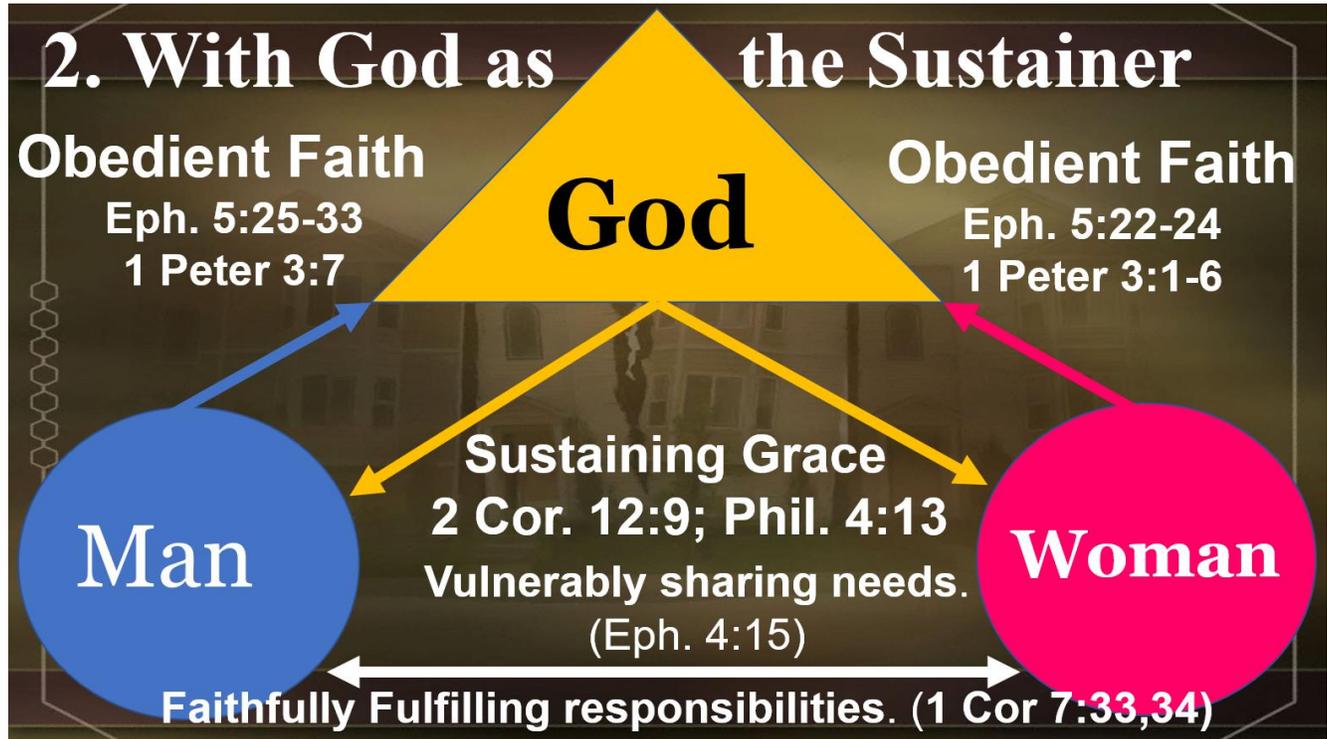
Only as we are rightly related to him can we be rightly related to others.



Since they live their lives Effectively "separated" from God; (Is. 59:1,2)
Is it any wonder that they have trouble lastingly (lovingly) connecting to each other?

Adam and Eve went through this transition in Genesis 3!

2. For those who choose to partner with God (*Jn 5:39,40; 10:10,11; 27*)
As we become rightly related to God, we become rightly related to each other!



Conclusion:

Relational deterioration isn't new. It's a byproduct of being a part of a fallen world, (entropy); And compounded by our selfishness! (sin) (Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12)
God has always had a plan of redemption and restoration (Gen. 3:15,21; John 1:29; Rev. 13:8)
But we must respond with repentance and faith. (John 3:16; Gal. 2:8; Romans 5:1)

Application: Matthew 11:28-30 Are you willing to:

- 1) *"Come unto (him)"* vs 28 for his help and healing? (*Jn 5:39,40*)
- 2) *"Take (His) yoke upon you"* vs 29a Partnering with him to rebuild your life/love?
- 3) *"Learn of (him)"* 29b Listen/learn as he teaches you about his purposes, principles and plans to renovate your life, love and relationships.

Only then will you truly find *"rest for your souls"* (29c)
 (Anap'ausis: not just rest, but Re-creation!)
 and discover that *"his yoke (zygos: plan/coupling) is easy*
 (chrēstos: fitted, fruitful, usefully employed)
And His burden (phortion: service) light" (Mt 11:30)