

Building Relationships to Last Sun Am 1/20/19

When God created Adam, they had a perfect relationship in a perfect environment. They communicated freely and enjoyed daily fellowship. The Bible says that God came down in the cool of the day to talk with Adam.

Genesis 3:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 2:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And the LORD God said, “*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*”

God and man had a relationship with each other, but God said it wasn't good for man to be alone. That is why He made a helper for him. It's important to understand that we need each other.

John 10:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

The devil wants to destroy relationships in the church so he can rob people of the redemptive benefits they have through Christ. If he can rob people of their relationships, he can isolate them and more easily attack them. One danger of not having relationships in the church is a limited defense system to protect yourself.

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Leviticus 26:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.

Let's look in greater detail at the apostle Paul's discourse on the importance of relationships in the Body of Christ and their interworkings within the Body.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Paul compares the Church-the Body of Christ with the physical body. Verse 16 tells us that the Body of Christ is “held together by every supporting ligament” and that we only grow “as each part does it’s work”, Thus Godly relationships must be a priority for believers.