

# Relationship Resolution

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*In order to fully appreciate and understand this teaching, you must watch the online video, as Pastor Jimmy drew many illustrations that he referred to during the sermon.*

We have a lot of different priorities that surround us. Things we are shooting for. What are some of your past or present New Year's resolutions? I'm so glad someone asked Jesus, "What is priority #1?"

## Jesus was asked, "What is the most important thing?"

- **Mark 12:28-34**

<sup>28</sup> Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. <sup>31</sup> And the second, like *it*, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." <sup>32</sup> So the scribe said to Him, "Well *said*, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. <sup>33</sup> And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup> Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that no one dared question Him."

- The word "sin" means to "miss the mark." What are we shooting for?
- **Love God = AND = Each Other**

## God is a perfect community

- **Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

- **Father — Son — Holy Spirit**
- **God is a perfect community of love! In perfect relationship with Himself.**

"The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with Himself included in that community as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant."<sup>1</sup>

~ Dallas Willard

<sup>1</sup> Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God* (Harper Collins, Oct 6, 2009)

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## It is not good to be alone

- **Genesis 2:15-18**

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." <sup>18</sup>And the LORD God said, "*It is not good* that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

- **The first crisis in the world is not sin! It is being alone.**

*This idea that God is all I need is just flat out wrong.*

- You need the Church. You need community. You were created with the need.
- You need people that love you, who will encourage you, and will challenge you.

*I believe that everyone needs to make a Relationship Resolution today.*

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## Life on my own terms

- **Genesis 3:1-7**

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup> but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings."

- **Everybody has a system to make life work without God.**

*Your New Year's resolution is a glimpse into what you believe will make your life "work."*

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## What really keeps us from making a Relationship Resolution?

- What holds me back from building deeper relationships and investing in community?
- It runs much deeper than most surface interesting reasons

- **Genesis 2:8-11**

<sup>8</sup>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.<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?” <sup>10</sup>So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and **I was afraid** because I was naked; and **I hid myself.**”<sup>11</sup>And He said, “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” <sup>12</sup>Then the man said, “**The woman whom You gave to be with me**, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”<sup>13</sup>And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

### What is really keeping me from community?

- **Fear..... “I was afraid.” Guidance by fear...**
- **Shame..... “I hid myself.” If you make a relationship resolution you will be known!**
- **Blame.... Man blames God and Eve. Eve blames Satan.**

### Review: Here is a description for disaster. We all do these things...

- Trying to live your life on your own. (Adam)
- Life on your own terms. Trying to make life work without God. (Fall)
- Building a life guided by fear, shame, and blame.

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## The Triune Answer?

- **Genesis 2:22-24**

<sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— <sup>23</sup>therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup>So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

- **What is the problem here? What is the solution? What is the purpose?**

***The truth is... Most of us live out our faith alone. Guided by fear, shame, and blame.***

*What does God do? He loves us too much to leave us like we are.*

*Jesus takes our hand and leads us back into community where we can heal and grow.*

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## The truth is —

- ***relationships are hard — people are messy.***

**Jesus is a Life Group.  
Jesus led a Life Group.  
Jesus had messy people in His Life Group.  
His group was a motley crew!**

You can pick your friends, but you don't pick your family. If someone is a believer in Christ Jesus, they are your family!!!! You are surrounded by brothers and sisters!

***What happens when we follow Jesus in community?***

- ***Fear becomes courage.***
- ***Shame becomes healing.***
- ***Blame becomes ownership and dominion over our lives!***

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**We need God! We need each other!**

*If you are interested in learning more about becoming part of a Life Group,  
contact Life Group Pastor Jimmy Harris: [jimmy@gracechapel.net](mailto:jimmy@gracechapel.net)*

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**Discussion Questions**

1. Do you have a New Year's resolution?
2. Will it help foster your fellowship with God or with other people?  
OR  
Will it help your own system make your life work without God?
3. What can you say to someone who believes that "all they need is God"?
4. What are the challenges of being in a Life Group?
5. What are the benefits of being in a Life Group?