

## **RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER**

**CHURCHES are built around HONORABLE relationships.**

People who want to become actively involved in the church need strong relationships to crossover.

These relationships will move people from individualistic thinking patterns to the corporate and collective team paradigms.

Healthy relationships create an atmosphere of peace and joy leading to a new lifestyle that is centered on togetherness.

### **Acts 2: 44 - 47**

*Act 2:44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;*

*Act 2:45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.*

*Act 2:46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,*

*Act 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

....were together....

.... sharing them with all....

....caring for each other's need....

....from house to house....

....day by day continuing with one mind (corporate paradigm)

....taking their meals together....

....with gladness and sincerity of heart....

Wholesome relationships are secured in trust and loyalty. People will stay accountable and be responsible for their part of the relationship. These new relationship synergize for strength, for collaboration and for completion of our assignment as a church.

### **How to build these relationships?**

#### **1. The Godhead is the pattern for all relationships.**

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are 3 in one. They reveal the collaboration and cooperation of equals.

#### ***Philippians 2:6-7***

*Php 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,*

*Php 2:7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.*

They reveal that they are complete and capable on their own but chose to be interdependent on each other.

#### ***John 8:26, 28-29***

*Joh 8:26 "I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world."*

*Joh 8:28 So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.*

*Joh 8:29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."*

## **RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER**

---

### **John 16:8-10**

*Joh 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;*

*Joh 16:9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;*

*Joh 16:10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;*

### **John 16:13-15**

*Joh 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.*

*Joh 16:14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.*

*Joh 16:15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.*

This is the pattern for Partnership Teams with specific role functions with specific responsibility.

### **Genesis 1:26**

*Gen 1:26 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."*

### **Genesis 2:7**

*Gen 2:7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

They are motivated by love for ONE ANOTHER and united by the purpose and ultimate plans.

### **John 1:1-4**

*Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*Joh 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.*

## **RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER**

---

*Joh 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

*Joh 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.*

### **John 1:14**

*Joh 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

### **John 1:18**

*Joh 1:18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.*

Their oneness is the key to doing the impossible

### **Genesis 1:26**

*Gen 1:26 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."*

### **Genesis 3:22**

*Gen 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"--*

**2. The HOME is the ground for the PRACTICE OF ALL RELATIONSHIPS**

- i) The relationship of MAN and GOD – Divine Relationship – Vertical Relationship
- ii) The relationship of MAN towards fellow mankind – Man to Man – Horizontal Relationship. Model the maturity and measure of manhood and lifestyle of a global citizen.
- iii) The relationship between MAN and WOMAN – Opposite sex and gender issues.
- iv) The relationship between FATHER and MOTHER – Healthy Home.
- v) The relationship between HUSBAND and WIFE – Healthy Marriage.
- vi) The relationship between BROTHERS and SISTERS – Honorable Team Relationships.
- vii) The relationship between EXTENDED FAMILY - Relatives, part of the family tree and lineage.
- viii) The relationship between an EXTENDED FAMILY – related by Marriage
- ix) The relationship between INCLUDED / INITIATED FAMILY – by Choice. Those who are closer than a brother. Relationships we have chosen to include in the mainframe of our relationship structure.
- x) The relationship between the CHURCH FAMILY – by Destiny

- xi) The relationship between the CHURCH AND COMMUNITY – by Purpose
- xii) The relationship between the COMMUNITY AND NATION – by transformation.

### **3. The GOD FACTOR in all relationships**

The Sovereign God must breathe into Man the breath of life so that life can come in.

*Genesis*

*Acts*

The consciousness of God will bring a sense of awe so that we can live in accountability before God. We need to submit to God and His power. His Presence will cover and protect our relationships from turning dishonorable because we have become too familiar with one another.

#### **Matthew 19:6-8**

*Mat 19:6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.*

*Mat 19:7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY?"*

*Mat 19:8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.*

#### **1 John 1:7**

*1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

#### **James 4:7**

*Jas 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

God brings people into our lives to help us go to the next level.

**1 Chronicles 12:16-18**

*1Ch 12:16 Then some of the sons of Benjamin and Judah came to the stronghold to David.*

*1Ch 12:17 David went out to meet them, and said to them, "If you come peacefully to me to help me, my heart shall be united with you; but if to betray me to my adversaries, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look on it and decide."*

*1Ch 12:18 Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, who was the chief of the thirty, and he said, "We are yours, O David, And with you, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, And peace to him who helps you; Indeed, your God helps you!" Then David received them and made them captains of the band.*

**1 Chronicles 11:1-3**

*1Ch 11:1 Then all Israel gathered to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh.*

*1Ch 11:2 "In times past, even when Saul was king, you were the one who led out and brought in Israel; and the LORD your God said to you, `You shall shepherd My people Israel, and you shall be prince over My people Israel.'"*

*1Ch 11:3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD through Samuel.*

**1 Chronicles 11:10**

*1Ch 11:10 Now these are the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who gave him strong support in his kingdom, together with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.*

**1 Chronicles 12:21-23**

*1Ch 12:21 They helped David against the band of raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor, and were captains in the army.*

*1Ch 12:22 For day by day men came to David to help him, until there was a great army like the army of God.*

*1Ch 12:23 Now these are the numbers of the divisions equipped for war, who came to David at Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the Lord.*

**1 Chronicles 13:1-4**

*1Ch 13:1 Then David consulted with the captains of the thousands and the hundreds, even with every leader.*

*1Ch 13:2 David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it is from the Lord our God, let us send everywhere to our kinsmen who*

## **RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER**

---

*remain in all the land of Israel, also to the priests and Levites who are with them in their cities with pasture lands, that they may meet with us;  
1Ch 13:3 and let us bring back the ark of our God to us, for we did not seek it in the days of Saul.”  
1Ch 13:4 Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.*

God brings people into our lives and they add value to the relationship we have with them.

Their relationships with us release us with strength and courage. They release blessings and life by their connection and covenant with us.

### ***Psalms 133***

*Psa 133:1 A Song of Ascents, of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
For brothers to dwell together in unity!*

*Psa 133:2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard,  
Even Aaron's beard, Coming down upon the edge of his robes.*

*Psa 133:3 It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion;  
For there the LORD commanded the blessing--life forever.*



**4. Explicit obedience to the RULES OF ENGAGEMENT**

The rules of engagement set the boundaries so that we function effectively under the governing principles of God's Word which is ABSOLUTE and FINAL

- i) **The law of TRUTH AND HONESTY** – we live with a passion for truth in the inner man and loving the Spirit of Truth.
  
- ii) **The law of MUTUAL BENEFIT AND EQUAL SACRIFICE** – all healthy relationships are fruitful and productive. They are good returns on investment. They are an asset and not a liability. They are useful to our progress and influence our success. We must labor tirelessly for what we treasure and who we are connected to in covenant.
  
- iii) **The law of AGREEMENT** – we agree on the Principles of God's word. Two cannot walk together unless we agree. We must agree on the purposes of God. We agree on our collective destiny.

- iv) **The law of FORGIVENESS** – We need to know the power of His blood that redeemed us. We need to see the price He paid because He loved us. We want to be gracious, generous, kind and caring. We are human and mistakes, shortcomings and immaturity are all part of growing a relationship. To forgive is divine. To forget the wrong done is discipline of mind. Those who forgive themselves know God has forgiven them. Those who unable to forgive others will destroy their own mind and emotions. We must become better not bitter.
- v) **The law of DISCERNMENT** – we can't be friends with everyone. We need to choose our friends to win in the game of life. In fact we have to select the best because we are worth it. We must know the spirit of the person. We must discern the person's spiritual posture so that we can relate without being hurt or offended. We must love them in real time and discern how they are NOW spiritually. We need to protect ourselves from contamination and defilement of our own spirit. Peter was open to two spirit sources almost at the same time.

**Matthew 16:17**

*Mat 16:17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.*

**Matthew 16:22-23**

*Mat 16:22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You."*

*Mat 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."*

**Matthew 17:5**

*Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"*

- vi) **The law of HONOR AND LOYALTY** – we must give honor to whom honor is due. We can only honor those we hold in high esteem. We must guard their dignity and protect them from any attack. The more we honor and esteem them, the more loyal we will become. We must deliver ourselves from the death cycle of rumors, gossips, slanders and confidential whispers.
  
- vii) **The law of DESTINY** – we can have many types of relationship but keep priority for partnership of destiny. Those are our long term relationships. These are people we cannot live and succeed without. They are integral to our future. They hold the other part of the jigsaw puzzle. We become clearer in the directions of life when we honor their grace and value their contributions towards our preferred future and destiny.