

ESTABLISHING YOUR RELATIONSHIPS: WHAT MATTERS MOST

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"Sir, which is the most important command in the laws of Moses?"

[37] Jesus replied, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.' [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] The second most important is similar: 'Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.' [40] All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets stem from these two laws and are fulfilled if you obey them. Keep only these and you will find that you are obeying all the others." Matthew 22:36-40 (Living)

Relationship IS GOD'S
highest priority.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light...

Genesis 1:3 (NIV)

Then the Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live.

Genesis 2:7 (TEV)

* I am important to God.

And the Lord God said, "It isn't good for man to be alone; I will make a companion for him, a helper suited to his needs." [19] So the Lord God formed from the soil every kind of animal and bird, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; [20] and whatever he called them, that was their name.

Genesis 2:18-20a (Living)

* Because of His relationship with us, God
makes me a partner, in this life.

But still there was no proper helper for the man. [21] Then the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the place from which he had removed it, [22] and made the rib into a woman, and brought her to the man.

[23] "This is it!" Adam exclaimed. "She is part of my own bone and flesh! Her name is 'woman' because she was taken out of a man."

Genesis 2:20b-23

I. HOW'S MY RELATIONSHIP with God ?

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. [27] God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

Acts 17:26-27 (NIV)

A. IS IT MY number one priority ?

Jesus replied, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.' [38] This is the first and greatest commandment.

Matthew 22:37-38 (Living)

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

Matthew 6:33 (NASB)

B. IS IT growing daily ?

II. HOW'S MY RELATIONSHIP with people ?

The second most important is similar: 'Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.'

Matthew 22:39 (Living)

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. [4] Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philip. 2:3-4 (NIV)

A. IS IT prioritized correctly ?

"This is it!" Adam exclaimed. "She is part of my own bone and flesh! Her name is 'woman' because she was taken out of a man." [24] This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife in such a way that the two become one person.

Genesis 2:23-24 (Living)

B. AM I making an effort TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS?

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13 (NIV)

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

My dear friends, we always have good reason to thank God for you, because your faith in God and your love for each other keep growing all the time.

2 Thes. 1:3 (CEV)