# Central Truth Relational Intelligence: Who Is At Your Table?

# Who’s Invited? Part One

# April 14, 2024

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# CENTRAL TRUTH

***When you boil down the Kingdom of God, it comes down to two basic principles, it is based on “relationship”; relationship with God and relationship with one another.***

# SERMON DESCRIPTION/BACKGROND

The purpose of this sermon is to communicate the need of biblical relationships. God and His design and wisdom has demonstrated, through the Godhead, that relationships are critical to human life. In fact, they are essential, and a basic human need, people need one another. However, not every relationship is created equal, and therefore, we must understand what God has prescribed rather than what flows naturally or evolves. The fundamental difference is that Christian relationships are meant to be spiritual. That is to say, that God is involved in them, He is present, and He is a stakeholder. This is why it is not only imperative that we understand, but also apply the principles and wisdom that are required to display godly relationships.

# SERMON DESCRIPTION

Relationships are essential to life, community is imperative, and the Bible provides us with principles of healthy, balanced, and meaningful interactions.

# SERMON QUESTIONS & OBJECTIVES

1. What do they need to know?
* God has created human beings to need one another.
1. Why do they need to know it?
* Build strong, godly loving relationships.
1. How should they apply it?
* Follow the Kingdom principles outlined in the word of God.

# OPENING LINE

***Although relationships can be impactful, meaningful, and life-giving, they are not meant to replace the need for God with our lives.***

# INTRODUCTION OF THE SERMON

**Illustrations**

It is interesting that at a restaurant, even after the meal is completed, and the bill has come and has been paid for, that people will linger, continuing to have conversations. In other words, the end of the event has not impacted the end of the interaction, fellowship, and relationship.

In an Italian gathering, for example, it takes about an hour to say goodbye to people as new conversations arise.

# READING – MAIN PASSAGE

**Genesis 2:18**

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

**The Fellowship of the Believers**

**Acts 2:42-47**

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

# TRANSITION STATEMENT

***What sets Christian relationship apart from all others is that they are spiritual.***

# MAIN POINTS

Not all relationships are the same. Kingdom relationships are designed to be different. They have key markers.

The believer in Christ is to:

* + Love their neighbours as themselves
	+ Look out for the interests of others
	+ Do unto others as they would have others do to them.

**The Over-Arching/Covering Of Relationships (Bandwidth & Responsibility)**

**Love**: Love is the central theme of Christian relationships. Christians are called to love one another deeply and unconditionally, following the example of Jesus Christ (John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

**Prayer**: Prayer plays a crucial role in Christian relationships. Believers are encouraged to pray for one another, seeking God's guidance, wisdom, and blessings in their interactions and endeavors (James 5:16; Ephesians 6:18-19).

These elements provide a foundation for healthy, Christ-centered relationships that reflect God's love and grace.

**The Table**

The importance of the “table: in Scripture: Many essential aspects of social life occurred at that table, both in the Old and New Testaments. It was typical for people to recline and spend most of their time there.

We also see from Scripture that God prepares a table, as in Psalm 23. However, the Lord Jesus also turns tables when things were opposed to His will and desire as we find in the temple. The people turned the house of prayer into a den of thieves.

Consider the things that occur at the table:

1. Planning
2. Major decisions
3. Celebration
4. Discipline and correction
5. Leisure or fun
6. Food/eating
7. No distractions, communication
8. Business deals or interactions
9. Meetings
10. Teaching
11. Counseling and advice.

For a family setting, the table should be a sacred place where bonds are created. It should be a safe place where communication flows freely, love is expressed, and life is shared.

1. **The Need For Relationship: Why does God create them and why do I need them? (bandwidth: longing, emptiness, tension)**
	1. Through the example of the Trinity, we see the need for biblical relationships. The Godhead demonstrates the essential qualities of being connected to one another:
* They provide health and well-being
* They brake selfish tendencies within us
* They protect us from isolation
* They complement and complete us
* NEEDS - The needs of all are met
* Generosity is expressed (Acts 4)
* They provide:
* Strength (One can put a thousand to flight…)
* Confidence
* Identity
* Encouragement
* Productivity
* Dynamics.
	1. CONNECTION: God designed people to be connected and to inter-relate with one another – people need people. ***Isolation is a weapon of the enemy, through loneliness he attempts to discourage God’s people***
* Proverbs also communicates that the fool isolates himself; in other words, it is an unwise decision to disconnect from others because it plays into the hands of the enemy which is to isolate and conquer.
* Jesus chose to be connected

**John 15:15**

No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

**Genesis 2:18**

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

1. **The Meaning Or The Purpose Of Relationships (bandwidth: fulfilment, understanding, revelation)**
	1. What do relationships mean to us as human beings and why are they important? We can see that there are various types and expressions of human interactions and bonds:
* The type of relationship
* Family (biological and Body of Christ, family of God)
* Friends
* Romantic
* Colleagues – work and fun
	1. **They are life-giving:** ***Relationships are designed to be life-giving, but they can also be depleting*** ***if they become toxic***
	2. They build up and develop us:
* Building each other up: Paul encourages believers to edify and support one another in their relationships. In 1Thessalonians 5:11, he writes, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
	1. Survival: The early church is our best example of Biblical relationships:
* The revelation of the early church was that they were united:
* In Fellowship
* Prayer
* The Word
* They did life together.
	1. Sanctification: “No one and nothing brings out the flesh like other people”
1. **The Unseen Guest: Christ (bandwidth: encouragement, and faith)**
	1. Matthew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

* Where two or three are gathered - Christ is in their midst
	1. When we display Christian relationships:
* To display the culture of the Kingdom
* Glorify Christ and to please His heart
* The Lord commands His blessing where there is unity
	1. The un-invited guest shows up – Satan
* Unlike Christ who is a welcomed guest, the Devil is an unexpected and un-desired guest. He often comes un-announced, and in a sneaky manner, he slithers like a snake to cause all sorts of issues and problems. His aim is to cause chaos and confusion among relationships in hope of disrupting God’s grace and purposes amongst God’s children. Consider some of the fruit of what he desires to accomplish:
* Division
* Discord
* Dis-unity
* Drama and chaos
* Destruction
* Christian relationships are contested and challenged by the demonic realm.

# SERMON CONCLUSION - THE CALL TO ACTION

Relationships need to be:

* Cultivated
* Guarded
* Appreciated.

**2Corinthians 13:14**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.