

**Pretext/Synopsis**

The Bible teaches that we are created for relationship! Relationships are meant to be good for us, and God desires that we have successful relationships. But why do so many relationships go wrong? In this series, we'll explore what it takes to have successful relationships, and how defining a relationship goes a long way in doing that.

**Key Scriptures**

Gen 1:26-28	NLT	Then God said, "Let us make human beings* in our image, to be like us... So God created human beings* in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."
Gen 2:18-25	NLT	"Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.' ... So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man."
Eph 5:25-33	NLT	"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ..."

**Sermon Topics**

Date	Preacher	Title/Topic	Thoughts/Main Points
		Defining Relationships	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduce the series</li> <li>- Teach the young people about the importance of defining relationships</li> </ul> <p>Thoughts:</p> <p>Ai Stead Mai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This question gets asked because people want to know the status of their relationship.</li> <li>- What does it teach us about relationships?</li> </ul> <p>We were made for relationship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gen 1:26 - Let US make man in our own image...</li> <li>- There was relationship within the Godhead, before anything existed there was relationship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We were made in God's image, so we were</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<p>created for relationship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gen 2 - It is not good for man to be alone</li> </ul> <p>Relationships can give or take life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gen 1:28 - Be fruitful and multiply</li> <li>- Healthy relationships give life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relationship within the Godhead created life</li> <li>- Healthy relationships help others grow</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Unhealthy relationships take life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Satan and his angels</li> <li>- Crazy girlfriend</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Healthy relationships are relationships that are defined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gen 1:26-28 establishes the purpose and boundaries of our relationship with God</li> <li>- When a relationship is defined, it has boundaries, boundaries help to safeguard a relationship</li> <li>- An undefined relationship is dangerous because there are no boundaries, where there are no boundaries, anything can happen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insecure, because you don't know where you stand.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
		Letting God Define Our Relationships	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teach the young people how our relationship with God should define our relationship with others.</li> </ul> <p>Thoughts:</p> <p>Series Tie-In</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Asking a question like 'Ai Stead Mai" defines a relationship.</li> <li>- Who defines what a relationship should look like?</li> <li>- Media and movies paint a certain picture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical intimacy, kiss, hold hands, have sex even though you're not married</li> <li>- Almost surprised when two main characters in a movie don't jump in bed</li> <li>- Some of us allow this picture to define what relationships look like</li> </ul> </li> <li>- If we want to have successful relationships, we need to get our definition from the one who created relationships.</li> </ul> <p>If you want to define something, ask its creator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gen 1:26-28 God the originator of relationship</li> <li>- Eph 5:25-33 Husbands love your wife as Christ loved the church</li> <li>- God begins to define what a healthy marriage relationship should look like.</li> <li>- Uses His relationship with us to model what our</li> </ul>

			<p>relationship with others should look like.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not just telling us what to do</li> <li>- He's demonstrated it to us</li> </ul> <p>Our relationship with God should define our relationship with others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The way we relate with people is decided by the way we relate with God</li> <li>- Relationship with God is our <b>primary</b> relationship, how we treat our relationship with God is going to be how we treat our relationship with our future spouse</li> <li>- Our relationship with God will be reflected in how we relate to people around us</li> <li>- John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends</li> </ul> <p>If we want to be successful at relationships, we need to prioritise our relationship with God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Matt 22:37-39. Greatest commandment deals with our relationship with God - followed by our relationship with people. If you can't get v37 right, you'll never nail v39.</li> <li>- The way we relate with people is decided by the way we relate with God</li> <li>- If we cannot love a perfect God (who gives us unconditional love), how are we going to love an imperfect person (who will hurt us and upset us).</li> <li>- Faithfulness, consistency, sacrifice, patience,</li> </ul>
		God's Model For Relationship	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teach the young people what our motivation and perspective on relationships should be</li> <li>- Show them how this sets us up for successful relationships</li> </ul> <p>Thoughts:</p> <p>Series Tie-In</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We ask "Ai Stead Mai" to define a relationship</li> <li>- Have you ever really thought about why we're getting into a relationship?</li> <li>- "Because I like him/her" isn't going to cut it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When you're going through difficult times or rough situations, or when someone makes a mistake, "because I think I like him/her" isn't going to see you through.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Important to examine the reason we get into a relationship.</li> </ul> <p>WHY we get into a relationship determines <b>what</b> we'll do to</p>

			<p>get into one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What you'll sacrifice or lay down</li> <li>- What you'll give up or put aside</li> </ul> <p>WHY we get into a relationship shapes what we <b>expect</b> from relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our motivation for getting into a relationship determines what we expect to get out of it</li> <li>- If we get into a relationship to meet a certain need, we will want out when that need isn't met</li> </ul> <p>WHY we get into a relationship shapes what we will <b>do</b> in a relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our motivation for getting into a relationship will determine what we're willing to do for/in one.</li> <li>- People do crazy things for relationships</li> <li>- You might be pressured to do things in a relationship if it helps get you what you want.</li> </ul> <p>WHY do we get into relationships? Need to be a bit brutal and examine ourselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sometimes we desire relationship to meet a need more than relationship for a person.</li> <li>- Loneliness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Think you won't feel alone if you have a boyfriend/girlfriend.</li> <li>- Someone will 'truly understand' you</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Peer/Societal Pressure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Everyone is getting attached and you don't want to be left out</li> <li>- What happens when everyone is breaking up/sleeping around?</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Fear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Missing out if I don't have a relationship</li> <li>- What if no one else wants to get with me?</li> <li>- Relationships based on fear will not last. Fear is never a good foundation for anything - faith is.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Acceptance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need someone to accept me for who I am</li> <li>- What if someone gets mad or upset</li> <li>- What if someone threatens withholding acceptance unless you do _____</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Love <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do you love them or do you love yourself more.</li> <li>- Sometimes we mask a desire to meet our own needs with 'loving' someone else.</li> <li>- Sometimes people mask trying to bring you closer to them by pretending to bring you closer to God. Eg. Let's pray together every</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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			<p>night. That's not bringing you closer to God, that's bringing you closer to them.</p> <p>We need to really allow God to examine our heart and motivation - not allow these to be covered up by feelings.</p>
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## Other Discussion Notes

### Ai Stead Mai thoughts

We are crafted/created for relationship

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “**Let us make** human beings\* in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth,\* and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created human beings\* in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

**28** Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

\* **1:26a** Or *man*; Hebrew reads *adam*.

\* **1:26b** As in Syriac version; Hebrew reads *all the earth*.

\* **1:27** Or *the man*; Hebrew reads *ha-adam*.

Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ge 1:26–27). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

### LET US MAKE

- There was an US
- Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- Before anything else existed there was relationship.

### MAN IN OUR IMAGE, TO BE LIKE US

- Relationship existed before anything else did, relationship is part of the nature of God
- When we were made in His image, we were made with that same nature, same need for relationship

### BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY

- Our relationships are meant to give and multiply life. Enable us to reign and govern. LEAD.

**Genesis 2:18–25:** “Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.' ... So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he

slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man."

Relationships can take life or give life - it depends on how we define them

- We see this relationship within the Godhead as one that creates life
  - Let us make... earth, plants, animals all created
  - Man was created. This was a relationship that was life-giving.
  - God intends for our relationships to be life-giving.
    - Healthy things grow, and help other things grow
    - Healthy relationships should help us grow

**Ecclesiastes 4:9:** "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?"

- Unhealthy relationships can take life.
  - Prob 13:20 - Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.
  - Satan and his angels. His angels fell because of their relationship with him.
  - 2 Tim 2:16-18, Hymenaeus and Philetus

**16** Avoid worthless, foolish talk that only leads to more godless behavior. **17** This kind of talk spreads like cancer,<sup>[a]</sup> as in the case of Hymenaeus and Philetus. **18** They have left the path of truth, claiming that the resurrection of the dead has already occurred; in this way, they have turned some people away from the faith.

- WPF is about relationship

Choose right relationships

WHY is relationship with God important? Forms the foundation for all our other relationships.

**\*\*If we can't have a proper relationship with a perfect God, how are we going to have a good relationship with an imperfect person.\*\***

What God designed for good the enemy tries to twist and pervert.

- God's view on relationships vs our generation's view on relationships

**Ephesians 5:25-33:** "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ..."

- John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.
- My needs vs Their needs
- My loneliness vs Their call

Right relationship at the wrong time is still wrong.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5:** "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

CANNOT WAIT = CANNOT STEAD

Wrong relationship at the right time is still wrong.

It needs to be the right relationship at the right time.

We seek relationships for different reasons

WHY behind relationships

- When we desire a relationship to meet a need rather than relationship for a person
- Loneliness
- Peer pressure
- Societal pressure
- Fear - relationships based on fear will not last
- Need for acceptance
- Desire for people to view us a certain way
- LOVE > WHO? Love them or love yourself.
- Someone can't move you closer to God and try to sleep with you at the same time. Sometimes people mask trying to bring you closer to them, by pretending to bring you closer to God (let's pray together every night. That's not closer to God, that's closer to you).

Every relationship needs to be DEFINED

- Defined relationships give you security. Undefined relationships make you insecure. Girls wanna know.
- Defined relationships have defined boundaries. Undefined relationships have no (or undefined) boundaries. A relationship with no boundaries is dangerous cos anything can happen!

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS ARE

- Defined
- Have Boundaries
- Give life

People seem to love this grey area of we're together we're not.

## Series Premise: Defining Relationships

God's Plan For Relationships

Having The Right Perspective On Relationships

Having The Right Motivations For Relationships

Abraham defined his relationship with Sarah wrongly and it nearly cost 2 different people their lives/families.

Why does someone ask Stead Ai Mai?

- Want to know where they stand
- Want to know what your priorities are
- Want to know

Praying together = Getting you closer to God? Or getting you closer to him. Uh oh.

Primary Relationship: God. Prioritising and making sure that relationship is settle first before we try to have any other kind of relationship. Why? Because that relationship models how we do all our other relationships.

Your romantic relationships will be a reflection of your relationship with God. That's what Ephesians shows us.