

Inside Message

Life is defined by the relationships one has in their life. What one believes, how one acts, one's priorities, and how one lives, is determined in great part by the relationships they have. We were created from a divine relationship. (*Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:...*) We were created to live in a relationship with others. (*Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone;...*) Our salvation is secured in a relationship with Christ. Understanding how to relate to others in a Christian relationship will give us a good understanding of how to navigate life.

The most dangerous thing about a relationship is getting involved with someone who is toxic for your life. If we are not careful our emotions will drag us into a relationship that we are not suited for as a Christian. Many of us struggle in an area of life that is a direct result of a relationship that has negatively affected our life. Most of us have a relationship in our past that has left some unwanted memories in our mind.

If we know that relationships can have such a drastic affect on our lives, would it not be to our advantage to be more careful in the area of our relationships? If having a relationship with Christ gives us clarity concerning all the other relationships in our life, shouldn't we do more to enhance our relationship with Him? This sermon series has been written for this very purpose; to help us have a stronger relation with the Lord, and to give guidance on how to develop strong relationships with others. My prayer is that through this sermon series you will learn to develop deep and meaningful relationships that will define your life in a Godly way.

God Wants to Prepare Us to Live In a Relationship

Sermon #1

Genesis 1:26-27 *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (V.27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

Genesis 2:18 *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

I. Before God gives you a relationship He wants to give you a place.

Why is a place so important before you try to relate to a person?

- If you don't have a place then chances are you will take on the place of the person you meet.
- If you are not confident in your place you will be persuaded that other places are better.
- Not having a place makes you look for a person who will give you a place or validate a place for you.

A. God gives us a place to be and to belong in His world.

Genesis 2:7-8 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (V.8) And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

Romans 8:1-2 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (V.2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

B. God gives us a place to be and to believe in His world.

Genesis 2:8 *And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

Hebrews 6:19 *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*

2 Timothy 1:12 *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

II. Before God gives you a relationship He wants to give you a provision.

“When we do embrace God’s sovereignty, we find that confidence increases, insecurities fade, worries decrease, and calmness replaces striving.” **Chuck Swindoll**

A. They are provisions that God grows to meet your physical needs.

Genesis 2:9 *And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, . . .*

Philippians 4:19 *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:11-13 *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. (V.12) I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. (V.13) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

B. They are provisions that God grows to meet your spiritual needs.

Genesis 2:9 *. . . and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

Genesis 3:8 *And they heard the voice 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 amongst the trees of the garden.*

2 Timothy 1:12 *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

1 Timothy 6:6-7 *But godliness with contentment is great gain. (V.7) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.* (Are you willing to live with what he provides?)

“Many people today pursue stuff that is bigger and better, then pop pills for the misery it brings.”

Tony Evans

III. Before God gives you a relationship He wants to give you a purpose.

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.* He made us to be like Him (In His Image). The enemy's number one attack is for you to accept something other than your identity in Him.

A. God gave man a purpose to fulfill His will.

Authority and Accountability

Genesis 2:15 *And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*

Galatians 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

B. God gave man a purpose to obey His Word.

Genesis 2:16-17 *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: (V.17) But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

Genesis 3:21 *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

The Power of a Relationship to Enhance a Life Sermon #2

1 Samuel 19:1-7 (V.1) *And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. (V.2) But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself: (V.3) And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee. (V.4) And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good: (V.5) For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause? (V.6) And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain. (V.7) And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan shewed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.*

“Most people give away their relational energy on a first come, first-served basis. Whoever gets their attention first gobbles up their time and relational energy.”

John Maxwell

“David and Johnathan’s friendship is renowned in the Bible as the premier friendship.”

Dr. Hampton Drum

1 Samuel 18:1-3 *And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. (V.2) And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house. (V.3) Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. (You could say that David and Jonathan were soul mates.)*

“When Jonathan looked at David he saw a life without deception. He saw a life of transparent integrity, and his soul was drawn to the veracity of that relationship.”

Hampton Drum

“What most people really want is to be listened to, respected, and understood.”

John Maxwell

Proverbs 17:17 *A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

I. A relationship has the potential to protect one from danger. (V.1-2)

1 Samuel 19:1 *And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.*

A. There is the prevention a relationship can give in a warning.

1 Samuel 19:2 *But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: . . .*

Proverbs 25:11 *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.*

Why Was Jonathan's Advice So Vital for David?

- Because David was so engulfed by the atmosphere of the palace and the grandeur of Saul, he might have hesitated.
- Because David was loyal to a fault, he might have stayed out of loyalty even at the risk of his own life.
- Because in times of personal crisis where weighted issues are involved, it is difficult to see clearly.
- Because when you are attacked by an influential person of Saul's magnitude it can cause you to devalue yourself.

B. There is the perspective a relationship can give in wisdom.

1 Samuel 19:2 *. . . now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:*

II. A relationship has the potential to provide diplomacy.

“A friend can say something that you personally cannot say. To say it yourself would make you look like a braggart. At the same time, they are using their collateral to affirm who you are.”

Dr. Hampton Drum

David's intro to Saul:

1 Samuel 16:18 *Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.*

1 Samuel 19:3 *And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee.*

A. There is the advocacy a relationship can provide.

1 Samuel 19:4 *And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good.*

B. There is the advantage a relationship can provide.

Johnathan's Admiration for David:

1 Samuel 19:5 *For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?*

“Jonathan spoke candidly with his dad. David could have never spoken of himself in that way.”
Dr. Hampton Drum

“Is it not amazing how confident we are when we believe in what we're saying?”
Dr. Hampton Drum

III. A relationship has the potential to prevent destruction.

A. A relationship has the ability to reverse a judgment in our lives.

1 Samuel 19:6 *And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain.*

B. A relationship has the ability to restore justice in our lives.

1 Samuel 19:7 *And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan shewed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.*

“To find a friend who has the same values, the same vision, the same heart and passion as you do is not to be taken lightly. It is not to be confused with liking someone, or enjoying the same things in life. What David and Jonathan enjoyed was a ‘divine flow’ of enjoying the same heart for God.”

Floyd McClund

A Relationship to Help Them Seize the Moment

Sermon #3

Esther 2:7-8 *And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter. (V.8) So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.*

Why Do I Need A Relationship That Helps Me Seize The Moment?

- Because it is a relationship that helps you prepare for the moment.
- Because it is a relationship with someone who is older and wiser, and who sees life from a mature perspective.
- Because it is a relationship that helps you not waste the valuable qualities of your life.
- Because they have a perspective to help you reach your optimal best.
- Because they have the ability to help you understand who you will effect by your decisions.

I. The personal concern Mordecai invested into their relationship

A. Mordecai gave Esther the economic support she needed.

Esther 2:7 . . . *whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.*

The Equity That Mordecai's House Had Developed In Esther

- She had kept herself pure so the Lord could use her.

Esther 2:2 . . . *Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:*

- She had a disposition that was sweet and kind, and displayed both an inward and outward beauty.

Esther 2:7 . . . *the maid was fair and beautiful;*

Esther 2:9 . . . *And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him;*
Esther 2:15 . . . *And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.*

- She had a spirit of contentment about her heart.

Esther 2:15 . . . *she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed.*

- She used discretion that came from an obedient spirit.

Esther 2:10 *Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.*

II. The problematic circumstance that threatened their race

“The very ones whose social pressure cause you to compromise will despise you for it. They probably respect your convictions, and many of them wish they had the moral stamina to stand alone. May the Lord give you added courage to be a witness for Him, even in a hard place.”
Billy Graham

A. He helped her to realize her personal qualities in the face of moral evil.

Esther 4:11 *All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre,...*

Esther 4:13 *Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. (V.14) For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place;...*

B. He helped her to realize her providential uniqueness in the face of moral evil.

Esther 4:14 *For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

III. The personal contribution Mordecai presses her to make.

Esther 5:2 *And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.*

A. The courageous steps that Esther took to deliver her people

Esther 5:3 *Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? And what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.* (The King rewards her for her courage.)

“The conflict in this book is more than a battle between two men, Haman and Mordecai. This is a conflict between heaven and hell, light and darkness, Christ and Satan. We also are in that conflict. We have many devil-inspired enemies, for the devil is still on the trail of God’s people. Yet the Bible says when we trust the Lord, “No weapon formed against you shall prosper” (Is. 54:17).” *Adrian Rogers*

B. The conquering strategy that delivered Esther’s people

Esther uses great wisdom with in her strategy.

Esther 5:4 *And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.*

Esther 5:6 *And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.*

God's providence helps Esther in her courageous work.

Esther 6:3 *And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.*

Esther 7:2b-4a . . . *and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom. (V.3) Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: (V.4) For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain,...*

A Relationship of Encouragement

Sermon #4

Acts 9:20-30 (V.20) *And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. (V.21) But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? (V.22) But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. (V.23) And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: (V.24) But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. (V.25) Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket. (V.26) And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. (V.27) But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. (V.28) And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. (V.29) And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. (V.30) Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.*

“That is the kind of man Barnabas was—not a bit critical or jealous of someone else’s success, but thrilled and delighted. To see all those Gentiles responding to the gospel, to hear them talking about Jesus, to listen to their testimonies—Barnabas rejoiced.”

John Phillips

Philippians 1:20 *According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.*

The New Testament contains a total of 27 books written by early Christian leaders for other Christian communities and individuals. Of these 27 books, 13 claim to be written by the apostle Paul.

Second, with respect to the development of Christian beliefs and theology: without Paul, the distinctive teachings of Christianity may never have developed.

Third, with respect to the spread of Christianity: without Paul, the Christian mission, which eventually overtook the entire Roman empire, may never have happened as it did.

“What would have happened had Paul never lived? One could argue that the vast majority of people who today call themselves Christian would still be worshipping the gods of Greece and Rome, and Christianity would be one of the small sects within Judaism, with little impact on the world around it.”

Dr. Hampton Drum

I. Barnabas could picture Paul’s potential for greatness.

A. He saw Paul’s potential to convince the lost.

Acts 9:20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Galatians 1:23-24 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. (V.24) And they glorified God in me.

B. He saw Paul’s potential to combat the lost.

Acts 9:21-22 But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? (V.22) But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

II. Barnabas perceived Paul’s perseverance to succeed.

A. He saw a man that didn’t become disheartened at threats.

Acts 9:23 And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:

Paul had a stubbornness, and relentless spirit of determination.

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

B. He saw a man that wasn’t discouraged by trouble.

Acts 9:24-25 *But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. (V.25) Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket. (Barnabas could see the ingredients of greatness in Paul's life.)*

III. Barnabas promoted Paul as a preacher who would convict.

Acts 9:26 *And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.*

“It is not necessary to invent some ‘hidden reason’ why Barnabas befriended Saul. This was just the nature of the man: he was an encouragement to others.” **Warren W. Wiersbe**

A. Barnabas' emphasized the conversion of Paul.

Acts 9:27 *But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him,...*

Acts 9:3-4 *And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: (V.4) And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?*

Why Do Some People Need Someone To Speak For Them?

- Sometimes a person's environment can give off a wrong characterization about that person. (You can't trust them. They come from the wrong side of the tracks.)
- Sometimes all a person needs is for someone to give them an opportunity to prove themselves.
- Sometimes a person's family reputation gives them a bad name in the community. (Well I don't know him personally, but you know the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. If you know what I mean?)
- Sometimes a person has really changed, but skepticism prevents them from being accepted.
- Sometimes those closest to the forest can't see the trees. Sometimes, an outsider can see potential others can't see.
- Because we all need a recommendation from someone in our lives.

B. Barnabas emphasized the conduct of Paul.

Acts 9:27-29 *. . . and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. (V.28) And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. (V.29) And he spake boldly in*

the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

A Relationship of Divine Proportions

Sermon #5

John 15:7-11 *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (V.8) Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (V.9) As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. (V.10) If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. (V.11) These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

2 Corinthians 6:14-16 *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (V.15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (V.16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

An Intimate Love Relationship with Christ

He feels supreme love for
One he's never seen.

He talks familiarly ever day to
Someone he cannot see.

He expects to go to heaven on
The virtue of another.

He empties himself in order to be full.

He admits he is wrong so he
Can be declared right.

He goes down in order to get up.

He is strongest when he is weakest,
Richest when he is poorest,
Happiest when he feels the worst.

He dies so he can live.
He forsakes in order to have.
He gives away so he can keep.

He sees the invisible.
He hears the inaudible,
He knows that which passes understanding.

A. W. Tozer

I. A relationship of divine proportion has a shared ambition.

A. There must be a shared purpose of a shared promise.

John 15:7 *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

A Shared Relationship of abiding in Christ

“The Peace with God” and “The Peace of God”

Phillipians 4:6-7 *Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (V.7) And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

B. There must be a shared purpose of productivity.

John 15:8 *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

John 4:34 *Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*

II. A relationship of divine proportion has a shared affection.

A. It is an affection built on admiration.

John 15:9 *As the Father hath loved me, ...*

How Did God Express Love To Jesus in His Earthly Ministry?

- **God identified Himself with Jesus in the use of endearing terms.**

Beginning of His Ministry:

Matthew 3:17 . . . *This is my beloved Son,*

End of His Ministry:

Matthew 17:5 . . . *This is my beloved Son,*

- **God gave verbal assurance to Jesus concerning the action He had taken.**

Beginning of His Ministry:

Matthew 3:17 . . . *in whom I am well pleased.*

End of His Ministry:

Matthew 17:5 . . . *in whom I am well pleased;*

- **God gave verbal affirmation to Jesus in His acts of ministry.**

At Jesus' Baptism:

Matthew 3:17 *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

- **God honored Christ's ministry by allowing His name to be associated with Him.**

John 12:28 *Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.*

- **God gave Jesus priority over all other prophets that had preceded Him.**

Mount of Transfiguration:

Matthew 17:5 *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

B. It is an affection built on attachment.

John 15:9 *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

III. A relationship of divine proportion has a shared allegiance.

A. It is an allegiance to the directives of Christ.

“The Stronger the allegiance to the commandments the stronger the relationship grows.”

Dr. Hampton Drum

John 15:10 *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

1 John 5:3 *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.* (Faithfulness to the commandments of love is easy when you really love them.)

B. It is an allegiance to the delight of Christ.

John 15:11 *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

Hebrews 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

A Godly Relationship is Fulfilled in A Willingness to Sacrifice

- In order for a relationship to fulfill its purpose someone must sacrifice. Jesus was willing to put himself into a position of sacrifice. God in turn honored Him at the highest level for His sacrifice.
- A Godly sacrifice accomplishes a great work that continues long after the sacrifice has been made. The danger of sacrificing for vain things is that the sacrifice often loses its value before the sacrifice is over.
- The sacrifice can only be fulfilling if the purpose of the sacrifice is redemptive. Many relationships lose their fulfillment when they sacrifice for a purpose that is unworthy of the sacrifice.
- Christ's sacrifice gave the ultimate definition to the relationship that man shares with God.