

**Study Objective:** *An exploration of Scripture and insight that outlines God's design for the role of Man's Headship/Leadership – the Mantle of Spiritual Care & Accountability for those in immediate sphere of influence. This is His living/breathing study: our sole accountability is to share what He has shared with us.*

## RECAP

**Week 1: Battle for our Minds** *Our mind is the gateway to our heart and spirit; as men, we are the gateway to those in our sphere. We've been given all power to tear down strongholds and fortify. Our attitude towards circumstances may be the largest window into what we really believe about God and His plan for us.*

**Week 2: Where is our Sight?** *Are we defining God through the lens of our circumstances (physical sight) or defining our circumstances through the lens of God (spiritual sight)? Spiritual sight doesn't necessarily speak to what we may do for God, but rather, what we SEE: HOW we view Him and our circumstances. Looking for Him in our trials will also include listening for Him; most often, in order to hear His voice, we have to lower ours. Irrespective of our logic or how right or justified we feel in the moment – it's still our voice.*

## TODAY: A DEEPER LOOK AT RELATIONSHIP – WHAT GOD CREATED...LOST...AND HOW HE RESPONDED

*Background: Read it again; you're looking at your perspective, not mine.*

### Points to consider as we dive deeper:

- What did He create?
- What did He get from it?
- How much did it mean to Him?
- What was He willing to do to get it back?
- 89 Quadrillion dollar question: WHY?

### CLEAN THE SLATE!

Before we can do any justice studying relationship in this context, we have to wipe the slate clean of our understanding of what it means. As the sin nature has corrupted how God originally intended man to live, so has that same nature poisoned our concept of what the word relationship means.

### Failed/Imbalanced Relationships are Everywhere

We've all had our share of failed or imbalanced relationships in life. This includes parents, friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, and most definitely, significant others. Some of us have had failed marriages or other long term relationships; imbalanced may just be more give than take, or something more aggressive in nature.

Everywhere we look, we see journeys of conflict that cover a wide range of interpersonal experiences:

- Divorced parents (vs. parents that should have divorced?)
- Abuse – physical, mental, sexual, etc.
- Discarded – abandonment, exclusion, neglect, *esp. a father's exclusion/abandonment of their sons and/or daughters and the steep cost suffered in those respective struggles/journeys.*

**NOTE:** All manner of interpersonal dysfunction that exists in society today, contributes DIRECTLY to people's clouded view of what RELATIONSHIP with God can really mean.

**God's value on Relationship with us is measured by His Garden reaction and His Cross; torn Veil, our receipt!**

RELIGIOUS TAB: Further adding to the confusion, is the misapplied or misdirected “Holiness handlers” who view their acts, their works, or their “ability” to judge others as a gauge of their “walk with God.” How horribly can that damage new Christians or the next generation coming up, in how they view their interaction with God? And the most sacrilege: Using His name in vain – (Commandment #3) to manipulate others?

*PRAISE GOD: There IS an answer for every one of these situations, there is healing that goes deeper than every wound, there is peace that goes deeper than any conflict, there is love that surpasses every root of hurt, self-doubt, grief, and bitterness. And, as we heal, our understanding opens, and we'll view Him more clearly.*

But in order to truly view ALL that God has for each of us (and everyone He will lead us to share with), we MUST first revisit what HE CREATED and purposed from the beginning in order to better understand our starting point.

### **BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD: FAITH MODEL VS. LOVE MODEL**

*Please note: I'm not playing God, creating/writing new doctrine, or otherwise working to infringe on or loosen anyone's footing. We are simply reviewing perspectives and all within the bounds and balance of scripture He has provided us all with.*

Let's look at our contemporary (“FAITH MODEL”) access to Him; YES, He absolutely DOES honor our faith, and we know that FAITH is one of the things that moves Him most, that He FEELS the most! IT IS and always shall be an amazing experience to trust in Him entirely and watch Him move on our behalf, because of our trust in Him!

But we're not talking about His perspective, we're talking about ours. So (for this exercise) we want to take a “human” perspective exclusively for a moment and view WHY this model poses so many challenges for people to understand; perhaps we will have a deeper understanding of how to guide people in the beginning of their relationship with God, especially those with little to no bible teaching (“unchurched”)

Faith Model:

I have to accept that as a man, corrupted by sin nature and living in a mess created by my own poor choices:

- I am worth the LIFE of God, a Deity of all power – whom I have never seen
- That He has decided that He would rather suffer horrendously to pay my sin debt, than let me pay it.
- That somehow my shipwrecked life is worth the price it takes to change my eternal destination –an eternity I cannot truly comprehend
- That as He suffered pain my mind cannot fully grasp, He overrode His own power to stay on a man-made cross because of some maggots that would live on the other side of the world 2K years later (us)...???

While we know these foundational points to be biblically true, and understand them in the spirit of faith we have begun to walk with Him in, we also find ourselves able to acknowledge that trying to accept these difficult concepts in our human minds might play into whether or not we have a clear understanding of what HE WANTS IN RELATIONSHIP!

**SO LET'S START OVER!!!**

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**WHAT DID HE CREATE?**

Gen 1:26-27 “God made mankind, in His own image, in the image of God...”

Gave them true dominion over all of HIS Creation which He knew they wouldn't even fully comprehend yet

- Fruitful/multiply, fill the earth subdue it
- Rule over the fish of the sea, birds of the sky, over every living moving creature
- I give you EVERY seed-bearing plant on ...the whole earth, every tree...fruit with seed...YOURS for food.

Gen 2: 7 “God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.”

Gen 2:8 God planted a garden – Eden

Gen 2:15 God put man in Eden to care for it.

V.16 God's rules for what Man could Eat from the Eden

V.18-20 God recognizes man needs a companion, God scours His creation and finds “none are suitable”  
Man acquires “Adam” name. God allows Man to name all of HIS creations.

V.21-25 So, God creates a companion for Adam specifically.

***Portrait of God's view/purpose of relationship, the value and depth of her being taken/made from him.***

Notice the Order (*Headship Component of this study will dive into this deeper in the coming weeks*)

- V.16 God instructs Man, BEFORE woman has been created (V22)
- Gen 3:1 Serpent approaches the woman, tempts her by phrasing the question in a way that likely validates our own belief that Adam had relayed the rules to her, and not God directly. (*insert headship accountability later*)
- V2-3, She quotes what God said (to Adam)
- V4, Serpent does his play on words to parse out the answer she is really looking for.
- V6, Woman believed and ate, and gave to Adam – *who was with her!*
- V7, Their eyes were truly opened... ***they weren't blind before, but now they just experienced what Separation from God truly feels like! Disobedience caused immediate Bifurcation – total break in Communion of spirit!***
- Gen 3:8 God walking in garden, in cool of the day.
- V9, God asked the Man (headship) where he was/they were ....WHY? because it was UNUSUAL; they normally were there waiting for Him.
- V10, Adam hid, why? From fear. Where they afraid of God or His presence? ***ABSOLUTELY NOT! THEY WERE DESIGNED FOR HIS PRESENCE!***
- They were afraid because now they recognized they were ***NO LONGER SUITED FOR HIS PRESENCE; their communion with Him had been shattered!***
- V11, Who told you, naked; Have you done what I have clearly asked you not to do?
- Blame game begins:
- V12, Adam: “the woman that YOU gave me SHE did it”
- V13, Woman: “Serpent TRICKED me and so I ate”

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>>THE RELATIONSHIP THAT GOD CREATED – THE FUTURE VISION OF WHICH WE NEVER GOT TO WITNESS – HAS BEEN SHATTERED. THE RAMIFICATIONS ARE DEVASTATING AND ETERNAL.<<

### QUESTION – SO HOW MUCH DID THE RELATIONSHIP MEAN TO GOD?

How God responds is often viewed as His Power as a Punisher – but I believe the MOST ACCURATE interpretation of His reactions is: **A DIRECT CORRELATION of HOW MUCH HE VALUED WHAT HE LOST!**

### THOSE CURSES – and their impact:

#### To Serpent:

Gen 3:14-15, Cursed beyond all animals, Crawl on belly now (lost legs?), Eat dust entire existence; God placed hostility between WOMAN and serpent, between their offsprings, serpents head crushed by and would bruise mankinds heel

#### To Woman:

Gen 3:16, Making your pain in childbearing very severe; (reiterates) in great pain you will deliver children; Your desire shall be for (contrary to, [ESV]) your husband, but he WILL rule over you.

#### To Adam:

Gen 3:17, Because you listened to your wife (AND NOT ME), and did what I told you NOT to do;

- Cursed is the ground – BECAUSE of you
- Through daily painful labor will you reap your food from it, your entire existence
- It will produce THORNS and THISTLES for you; and you will eat plants from the (open) fields
- By the sweat of your face will you eat your food, until you return to the dirt I made you from!

Gen 3:20 Adam named the woman EVE / V21 God made clothes for them

V23 BANISHED from the only Home they ever had! (Tough love with [near] adult children)

V24 DROVE them out (not UBER either!)..with a death wish if they returned? (flaming swords weren't for a fireworks show!)

### WORLDWIDE Impact for ALL of Time:

**Q.** How many people in history have been afraid of snakes? Have been lost to snake bites?

**Q.** How many millions of women in history have had untold hours of torturous pain while bringing new life into the world? How many expectant mothers have DIED in child labor? How many babies have died from a mother's labor complications? How many babies have been born while their mother passed away from labor complications?

**Q.** How many men (and women) in all of history have struggled to feed themselves and their families? How many have struggled to maintain their bills and keep a roof over their heads? How many have lost their fight or their willpower due to the month to month (day to day) stress this struggle causes? And, how many men (and women) in history have DIED in their line of work? How many food shortages in history? How much sickness/illness in history of mankind can be connected to nutrition deficiency?? And on and on and on.

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**QUESTION:** Is this loving God oblivious to the math here? Is He UNAWARE of the eternal ocean wave of non-stop impact of these words? Of course NOT. **This IS the FIRST MEASURE of what HE has just LOST!**

*The SECOND MEASURE showing the value of what God lost in the Garden, we will soon see on the Cross*

**KEY NOTE: In between, the back-up plan was just NOT going to cut it – FOR HIM!**

Sure, He created a way to address our sin problem: animal sacrifices and a Veil to protect our separation. He chose a people, provided for His people, led His people, and showed His love and power to them over and over. But, since WHAT MATTERED MOST TO HIM was NOT addressed in this equation, it fell on Him to come up with a better plan – one that WOULD bring the opportunity to give Him back what HE LOST (*TRUE RELATIONSHIP, TRUE COMMUNION*) in the Garden.

When we see the weight of Christ's last day, do we not also again, see how it MEASURES the value God places on the Relationship with us? (3 Punishments – Scourging and Crucifixion are not congruent, and Sin Descends)

Scourged – a horrible beating, one strike shy of death – IF you survive, living witness to not cross Rome

Crucifixion – a torturous hanging, stretched out to defy anatomy, to create agonizing slow deaths.

Sin Sacrifice – What did Jesus really know, expect? (*He WAS God, but He had NEVER felt Sin!*)

>> **Watch the difference in voice:** Luke 23:34, Father forgive – Stand down, ignore the painful cries of your son, keep the plan intact; I've forgiven them, please do the same!  
Matt 27:46, My God My God – Why have YOU Forsaken me?!?

*Now, if we have accepted that the Garden Response and the Cross Plan TRULY measure God's value of this relationship, we still need to answer the question that lies underneath!*

**WHY?** What about us compels Him to such DEEP desire to be in communion with our spirit and to walk in harmony each day in fully interactive relationship with Him? *Go back to Genesis passages and witness the God-wink He sends us in how He views CREATION FROM, Woman made from part of Man.*

Gen 1:26-27 “God made mankind, in His own image, in the image of God...”

Gen 2: 7 “God formed man of the dust of the ground and **breathed into his nostrils** the breath of life, and man became a living soul.”

GOD didn't just give us a soul that lives eternally; **when He breathed into us, He placed a part of Him INTO us!**

**He cannot stop pursuing us. He cannot stop loving us. He cannot but forgive us, not because we deserve ANY of it, but because HE CANNOT stand to be away from us. His love goes deeper than our wounds, his peace deeper than our conflict, His sacrifice deeper than our sins and guilt and remorse and shame, and His long suffering extends beyond our space of time and throughout eternity.**

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**Adam truly was the first man after God's own heart, because God saw His likeness in Him when He saw that it was good.**

God didn't come to the Garden every day to ask Adam how his day was; He already knew. Adam would know that He knew.

God came down each day BECAUSE that part of Adam that came from Him compelled Him to. He had to see him; He had to be with Him

**And when He lost His greatest relationship with His highest creation, He stopped AT NOTHING to get it back!**

When we look at all of our Bible Heroes with their major flaws in character or barely concealed skeletons in their closets and we ponder the favor they received from God, we need to shift our sight back to spiritual eyes: *They did have to repent and reap for their sins. But, they understood the depth and value of relationship with God (what their place was before Him at that time), and had relentless pursuit of conversation with Him.*

IMAGE: Freshly scourged Jesus, awaiting Pilate's next decision, and the chief priests (the "church leaders").

Those church leaders had likely just taken prayer requests from members about unsolvable crimes by the occupying Romans, ie, 'son beat up by roman neighbor boys', or 'our house plundered by roman raiders', etc., 'and there's nothing we Hebrews can do about it.' Those church leaders would have led those members in prayer and finished with: 'And, remember; the Messiah is coming and He will change it all for us.' All the while, Jesus, badly beaten and bleeding, stands among those church leaders who will soon incite the 'Crucify Him' chant, and you know He HAS to be thinking: "Your Messiah HAS Come; I'm standing right here!"

The Question for us now: IS HE SAYING THIS AGAIN TO US TODAY?

**So let us not settle. Let us not accept less than what it means to Him and what He paid for it to be restored.**

It IS a journey; however, let's not give up the quest for a full discovery just as soon as we have barely begun!

**His power, His presence, His voice awaits us in all that we do and see!**

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