



Relationships: **BAE (Before Anyone Else)**

Genesis 2:8,15-18

Growth Group Discussion Questions for January 14, 2018

Getting Started:

- 1) What are some of the qualities you feel makes a relationship work well? What qualities tend to damage relationships?

READ: Genesis 1:26-27; I John 4:7-12,16-18;

- 2) Some have described God (Father, Son and Spirit) as perfect Relationship. Consider this description: "The Trinity is a fellowship of giving and receiving. No competition, hierarchy, or vying for power exists within the Trinity. Instead they give away power: The Father is not afraid to place everything in the Son's hands. The Spirit is given 'without limit' with no fear that the Spirit will take over. God is not threatened by giving Jesus the highest place and a name above His own." (Clark Pinnock)

- Have you ever considered God in the way Clark Pinnock describes Him? If not, how have you pictured God?
- How does John's description of God speak of relationship? (see also 1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

- 3) How important do you think it is to understand God as a Relational Trinity (Three in One) in your spiritual growth process?

- It's very important because _____ -
- It's probably important, but I'm not sure why
- I don't really understand what this even means!

READ: Genesis 2:8, 15-18

- 4) God *placed* Adam in His garden for a specific *purpose*: to maintain the *place* where God walked and talked with him (see Gen. 3:8-9). How does this original and foundational identity and purpose match with what you have believed? How is it different?

- If maintaining this *place* is our highest purpose, how do God's other commands fit into the picture? (Love God, love others; make disciples, etc.)

 - How do our specific vocations and circumstances fit into the picture?

 - How do we each best maintain God's garden?
- 5) All of creation displays uniqueness and diversity. That includes human beings. He did not create clones, but unique personalities, fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps. 139). My best gift to God is to be who He created me to be, not just like another person who I really admire. How do we each allow God's image to shine through our unique personality and purpose without becoming clone-like?

Bringing it Home:

READ: Colossians 3:1-17 and Ephesians 4:20-5:2

- 6) What is the goal of our faith? (Eph. 4:23-24 & Col. 3:10)
- 7) What relational boundaries (parameters) do you find in these verses? Why are these kind of parameters important?
- 8) If you are participating in Faith Center's 21 Day Fast, has the Spirit used today's study to help you pinpoint things you might fast from?

