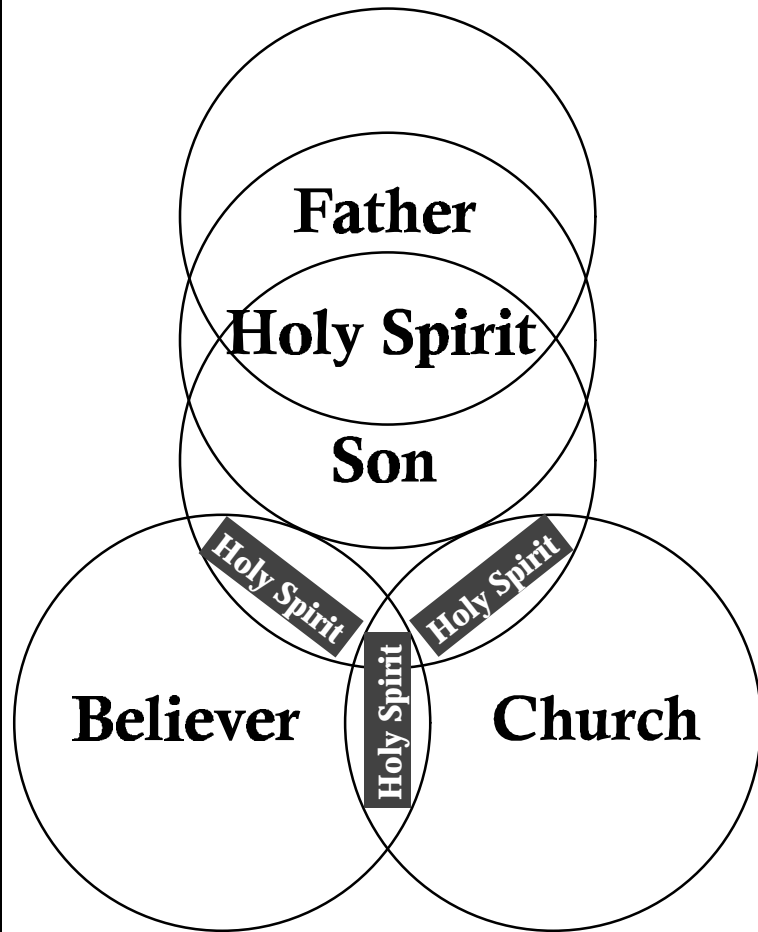


# RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS



**GLORIFY GOD**

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# FOUNDATIONS

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I COR 3:11

## A Relational Perspective

by Lawrence Brothers

## PRINCIPLES

- ➡**1** God created a world of right relationships, intended to glorify Him.
- ➡**2** The bible is God's own true word regarding the relationships which He created.
- ➡**3** God is relational, by nature, and has created us to enjoy relationship with Him.
- ➡**4** Mankind's greatest need is to glorify God by fulfilling His creative intent through right relationship with Him, with ourselves and with others.
- ➡**5** Through sin and the Fall, our relationship with God, ourself, and others, has been broken.
- ➡**6** God sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to glorify Him, by restoring God's broken image and healing mankind's broken relationships. Only through faith in Him, can right relationships be restored.
- ➡**7** God gives us His own Spirit, to maintain the relationships which Jesus Christ has restored.
- ➡**8** We glorify God and grow in our relationships, only to the extent that we cooperate with the working of God's Spirit within us and in the world around us.
- ➡**9** The church is God's earthly kingdom of right relationships, intended to glorify Him, by showing forth the excellency of His nature.
- ➡**10** God's relationship with us is eternal

Foundations: A Relational Perspective (1997)  
by Lawrence Brothers

FOR FREE COPIES CONTACT:

George B. Flynn  
6901 South Yukon Way  
Littleton, CO 80128

Phone: (303) 932-1636  
E-Mail: [gflynn@earthlink.net](mailto:gflynn@earthlink.net)  
Worldwide Web: [home.earthlink.net/~gflynn/brother.htm](http://home.earthlink.net/~gflynn/brother.htm)

**APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES:**



The church is God's earthly kingdom of right relationships, intended to glorify Him, by showing forth the excellency of His nature.



God's relationship with us is eternal

Establishing and maintaining relationships requires commitment. Read the following passages and discover the extent of God's ongoing commitment to His relationship with us. *John 10:27-29; Romans 8:31-39.*

**FOUNDATIONS: A RELATIONAL  
PERSPECTIVE  
TEACHER'S GUIDE**

**BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION:**

In Chapter 3, we noted the central role of Jesus Christ in the life of the individual believer. To discover the central role of Jesus Christ in the church, re-read the passages referenced on page 5-1 and complete the following for each description given for the church:

Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ and we are the \_\_\_\_\_.

Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ and we are the \_\_\_\_\_.

Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ and we are the \_\_\_\_\_.

Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ and we are the \_\_\_\_\_.

**OBJECTIVE #1: To provide an understanding of the basic teachings of the Christian faith from a relational perspective.**

**OBJECTIVE #2: To provide a foundational basis for understanding the deeper teachings of the Christian faith.**

**INTRODUCTION**

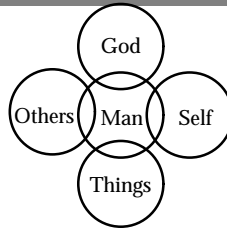
**PRINCIPLES:**

➡️ 1 God created a world of right relationships, intended to glorify Him.

➡️ 2 The bible is God's own true word regarding the relationships which He created.

**I. Relationships Defined**

Relationships are the connections and associations we have with God, self, others and things.



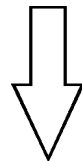
**II. God Created Right Relationships**

A. All that God created was good or right as originally intended. *(Genesis 1:31)*

B. This is also true of the relationships which He originally created.

C. God intended that all His creation, including those **right relationships**, would **glorify** Him. *(Romans 1:20)*

✚ **Right Relationship: A relationship created by God which glorifies Him**



✚ **Glorify: To reveal the hidden excellence and worth of**



**THE CHURCH - GOD'S KINGDOM OF RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS**

1. Manifesting God's image
- b. Speaking God's words
- c. Working God's works
- d. Establishing God's kingdom

2. Manifesting right relationships
  - a. With God worship  
*(ie, Celebrating the Relationship)*
  - b. With self unity and ministry  
*(ie, Other Believers)*

"The center of Christianity is fellowship with God through Jesus Christ... All those who are truly in living relationship to God are joined to all others who have this relationship."  
Let's Return to Christian Unity by Kokichi Kurosaki

- c. With others witness  
*(ie, Invitation to Relationship)*

**II. Our Work - Enjoying Him Forever** *(Revelation 22:1-6)*

## THE CHURCH - GOD'S KINGDOM OF RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS

### PRINCIPLES:

➡ 9 The church is God's earthly kingdom of right relationships, intended to glorify Him, by showing forth the excellency of His nature.

➡ 10 God's relationship with us is eternal

"The kingdom of God is the kingdom of right relationships"  
*The Edge of Adventure* by Keith Miller

### I. The Church - It's Nature and Work

A. It's Nature - Pictures of God in Right Relationship with His People

1. A body  
(*Ephesians 4:4;11-16; I Corinthians 12:12-27*)
2. A house  
(*I Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22*)
3. A vine  
(*John 15:1-5*)
4. A bride  
(*Ephesians 5:31-32; Revelation 21:2;9*)

B. It's Work - Glorifying God (*Ephesians 3:21*)

**Right relationships, restored in Christ Jesus, are maintained by the Holy Spirit, and manifested in the church, to the glory of God.**

## INTRODUCTION

### III. The Bible - God's Handbook of Right Relationships

The bible is God's own true word regarding the relationships which He created, and the record of God's relentless pursuit to restore right relationships within His creation.

### APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES:


➡ 1 God created a world of right relationships, intended to glorify Him.

Read *Genesis chapters 1 and 2*. List and examine the various relationships which God created (eg, between the elements created, between man and woman, between God and mankind, etc.). What is the quality of these relationships (ie, good or bad)? Is God glorified in them?

➡ 2 The bible is God's own true word regarding the relationships which He created.

God desires that we be **righteous** (ie, rightly related) toward Him, the world, ourselves and others.

The bible provides important instruction to the believer regarding right relationships. Read the scripture passages, on the following page, and complete the chart to discover the kind of relationships God intends for us:

 **Righteousness: Standing in right relationship with God, the world, ourself and others.**

Romans 6:11-12; James 4:4; I John 2:15; I John 4:7; Galatians 6:14

<b>Believer's Relationship to:</b>	<b>Rightly Related</b>	<b>Wrongly Related</b>
<b>Sin</b>	<b>dead to sin</b> (Rom. 6:11)	<b>letting sin reign obeying sin's lusts</b> (Rom. 6:12)
<b>God</b>	<b>alive to God</b> (Rom. 6:11) <b>born of God; knows God</b> (I Jn 4:7)	<b>hostility enemy</b> (Rom. 6:12)
<b>The World</b>	<b>crucified to</b> (Gal. 6:14)	<b>friendship love</b> (Jas 4:4; I Jn 2:15)
<b>Others</b>	<b>love</b> (I Jn 4:7)	

**BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION:**

In the first two chapters of the bible (*Genesis 1 and 2*), we glimpse the world as God intended, created for His glory and our enjoyment. Read the last two chapters of the bible (*Revelation 21 and 22*) and see the relationships God will create for His glory and our enjoyment.

The Holy Spirit:

1. Helps us to \_\_\_\_\_ Know \_\_\_\_\_ God  
(1 Corinthians 2:10-12)
2. Helps us to \_\_\_\_\_ Trust \_\_\_\_\_ God  
(1 Corinthians 12:8-9)
3. Helps us to \_\_\_\_\_ Love \_\_\_\_\_ God  
(Romans 5:5)
4. Helps us to \_\_\_\_\_ Honor \_\_\_\_\_ God  
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
  - a. In our Worship \_\_\_\_\_  
(John 4:23)
  - b. In our Service \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Corinthians 12 :4-11)

**BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION:**


We have seen how the Holy Spirit helps us maintain a right relationship with God. Read the following passages and list those things we are encouraged to do, in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, to maintain right relationship with others.  
*Romans 12:9-16; Galatians 5:13-26; Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 2:1-4; Colossians 3:12-17.*

2. Maintaining right \_\_\_\_\_ relationships \_\_\_\_\_
- a. With \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_  
(Romans 8:26)
  - b. With \_\_\_\_\_ self \_\_\_\_\_  
(Romans 8:5-13)
  - c. With \_\_\_\_\_ others \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ephesians 4:1-6)

**II. Our Work - Cooperating with the Holy Spirit** (Galatians 5:25)




**APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES:**

 God gives us His own Spirit, to maintain the relationships which Jesus Christ has restored.

 We glorify God and grow in our relationships, only to the extent that we cooperate with the working of God's Spirit within us and in the world around us.

Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the "helper" (see *John 14:16; 14:26*). Read the following passages and fill-in the blanks on the following page to discover **4 key ways** in which the Holy Spirit helps us to grow in our relationship with God.


**PRINCIPLES:**

-  God is relational, by nature, and has created us to enjoy relationship with Him.
-  Mankind's greatest need is to glorify God by fulfilling His creative intent through right relationship with Him, with ourselves and with others.
-  Through sin and the Fall, our relationship with God, ourself, and others, has been broken.

**I. God is Personal**


- A. He \_\_\_\_\_ thinks \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 1:4)
- B. He \_\_\_\_\_ feels \_\_\_\_\_ (John 3:16)
- E. He \_\_\_\_\_ acts \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 1:1; John 5:17)
- D. He \_\_\_\_\_ **speaks** \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 1:1-2)

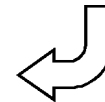


 **Revelation: God reveals Himself to us**

**II. God is Relational**

- A. God has always been \_\_\_\_\_ in relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
(Genesis 1:26; John 1:1-2)

 **The Trinity: God in relationship.**



- B. God has always desired that \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ be included in that relationship (John 17:20-24)

**III. Mankind's Need**


**Question:**     **What is the chief end of man?**

**Answer:**       **The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.**

**Shorter Catechism (17th Century)**



- A.    Mankind's Purpose - God's glory  
*(Genesis 1:26-27)*
  
- B.    Mankind's Destiny - Eternal relationship  
with God. *(Revelation 22:3-5)*
  
- C.    Mankind's Fall
  - 1.    God's image broken  
*(Genesis 5:1-3; Romans 3:23)*
  
  - 2.    Mankind's relationships  
broken *(Ephesians 2:1-3; 12)*

**APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES:**

 God is relational, by nature, and has created us to enjoy relationship with Him.

Read *John 1:1-3; 14:23-24* and *17:22-26*. List at least **5 important hallmarks** of the relationship that is shared between the Father the Son and the believer.

**PRINCIPLES:**

-  God gives us His own Spirit, to maintain the relationships which Jesus Christ has restored.
  
-  We glorify God and grow in our relationships, only to the extent that we cooperate with the working of God's Spirit within us and in the world around us.

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**I. The Holy Spirit - His Nature and Work**

- A.    His Nature
  - 1.    Fully God           *(Matthew 10:20)*
  
  - 2.    A person           *(Acts 13:1-2)*
  
- B.    His Work - Glorifying God    *(Colossians 1:27)*


**Right relationships, restored in Christ Jesus, are maintained by the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God.**

- 1.    Manifesting God's image  
*(2 Corinthians 3:17-18)*
  - b.    Speaking God's words  
*(Matthew 10:19-20)*
  
  - c.    Working God's works  
*(John 14:12-17)*
  
  - d.    Establishing God's kingdom  
*(Luke 17:21)*


**BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION:**

God is wonderfully consistent in His dealings with us. Complete the chart below, and note any patterns that emerge:

	<b>John 3:16,21</b>	<b>Romans 5:1-8</b>	<b>Ephesians 1:3-14</b>	<b>Pattern</b>
<b>What Do We Receive?</b>	<b>eternal life (vs 16)</b>	<b>peace with God (vs 1)</b>	<b>redemp- tion, for- giveness of sins (vs 5)</b>	<b>Salvation Blessing Righteous- ness</b>
<b>At What Cost to Us?</b>	<b>none (vs 16)</b>	<b>none (vs 2)</b>	<b>none (5,6,7,9)</b>	<b>Grace</b>
<b>At What Cost to God?</b>	<b>His Son, Jesus Christ (vs 16)</b>	<b>His Son, Jesus Christ (vs 1)</b>	<b>His Son, Jesus Christ (vss 3-7,9- 10,13)</b>	<b>Christ</b>
<b>God Motiva- tion?</b>	<b>love (vs 16)</b>	<b>love (vs 8)</b>	<b>love (vs 13)</b>	<b>Love</b>
<b>What Must We Do?</b>	<b>believe (vs 16)</b>	<b>believe (vs 1)</b>	<b>believe (vs 13)</b>	<b>Faith</b>
<b>What does God Receive?</b>	<b>glory (vs 21)</b>	<b>glory (vs 2)</b>	<b>glory (vss 6,12,14)</b>	<b>Glory</b>

 Mankind's greatest need is to glorify God by fulfilling His creative intent through right relationship with Him, with ourselves and with others.

Read the following passages: *Ephesians 1:4; Genesis 3:8-9; Exodus 25:8; John 14:23; Revelation 21:3*. What do we learn about God's desire regarding relationship with us?


 Through sin and the Fall, our relationship with God, ourself, and others, has been broken.

Read *Genesis chapters 3 and 4*. List and examine the various relationships involving the man and the woman after the Fall (eg, between the elements created, between man and woman, between God and mankind, etc.). What is the quality of these relationships (ie, good or bad)? Is God glorified in them?

**BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION:**

It can be said that sin has as its birthplace, the desire for wrong relationships. Read *Genesis 3:5-6* and *Isaiah 14:12-14*, and compare the original sin of mankind with the original sin of satan, in this regard. What was wrong with the relationship that both sought with God? (see *Gen. 3:6* and *Isa. 14:14*). (Note also the sin of the angels described in *Jude 6*).

**PRINCIPLES:**

 God sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to glorify Him, by restoring God's broken image and healing mankind's broken relationships. Only through faith in Him, can right relationships be restored.

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**I. Jesus Christ - His Nature and Work**

A. His Nature

- 1. Fully God (John 1:1)
- 2. A person (John 1:14)

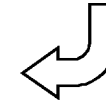
B. His Work - Glorifying God (John 17:4)

**Right relationships, restored in Christ Jesus, to the glory of God.**

- 1. Restoring God's broken image (2 Corinthians 4:4; Hebrews 1:3)
  - a. Speaking God's words (John 7:16)
  - b. Working God's works (John 14:10)
  - c. Establishing God's kingdom (Mark 1:15)

- 2. **Atonement** - Healing mankind's broken relationships


 **Atonement: At "one" ment**



- a. At one with God (Colossians 1:19-20)
- b. At one with self (Colossians 2:9-10; 14)
- c. At one with others (Ephesians 2:13-18)

**II. Our Work - Believing in Jesus** (Romans 4:5)

**APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES:**

 God sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to glorify Him, by restoring God's broken image and healing mankind's broken relationships. Only through faith in Him, can right relationships be restored.

We have seen how God meets our needs through Jesus Christ, resulting in His glory and restoration of our broken relationships. Read *John 3:16*. What motivates God to act on our behalf? What do we receive? What must we do to receive it?