

SERMON NOTES

January 11 & 12, 2025

First Things First: First of All

1. _____ human beings for _____ relationships. **Genesis 2:18**
2. Adam and Eve experienced relationship _____. **Genesis 3:6-7**
3. _____: Instead of talking ____ Eve, Adam talks _____ her; Instead of coming together _____ the problem, the _____ the problem. **Genesis 3:10-13**
4. The need to be right is a _____ and people _____
to being controlled.
5. Trying to control someone _____.
6. _____ and _____ drive our need to control others.
7. One unresolved family relationship can create a _____. **Genesis 4:1-7**

2025 Action Step: I will _____

Philippians 2:5

Life Steps

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Monday

Genesis 2:18

Reflect: Adam had a good job, a great place to live, unlimited resources, he was right with God and God was right with him, and yet there was still something missing in his life. What does this say about the importance God places on human relationships? Which of your relationships are thriving and why?

Prayer: Generous God, marvelous Creator, you are perfect in all of your ways.

Tuesday

Genesis 3:1-7

Reflect: Adam and Eve just didn't experience moral or spiritual failure; they experienced relational failure. Which of your relationships needs some help? When you pull aside all of the layers, what is the root cause of any relational failure? What can and what will you own? What might God be teaching you about yourself through this relationship?

Prayer: God of grace, help me recognize and own my own relational issues.

Wednesday

Genesis 3:8-13

Reflect: How have you been the recipient of blame and control from another person? How did the actions of the other person affect your relationship with them? How might you need to grow when it comes to not blaming or controlling others?

Prayer: God of grace, help me to forgive even as I have been forgiven.

Thursday

John 3:16-17

Reflect: People matter to God so much, God loves all people so much that, God gave his very best to make sure the message sent was the message received. Who are the 7 most important relationships in your life? Most of the time, do they get your leftover self, or your best self? What would their answer be if you ask them, "How can I put our relationship first?"

Prayer: Write a sentence prayer of thanksgiving for each of your 7 most important relationships.

Friday

Genesis 4:1-7

Reflect: Adam and Eve's relationship failure created a mess for future generations. How could Cain or Able have responded differently and averted further family dysfunction? How will you, by example, rewrite the ending to your family story?

Prayer: God of new beginnings, help me get better at putting others first.

Saturday

Philippians 2:5

Reflect: Considering each of the 7 most important people in your life and what you uniquely understand about them, what would it look like for you to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus towards them? Consider each of them individually.

Prayer: Write a sentence prayer affirming the uniqueness of each of your 7 most important relationships.

Sunday

John 15:12

Reflect: Who are the key people in your life who are sometimes hard to love? What makes them hard to love? Who are the key people in your life who are easy to love? What makes them easy to love? How do you think these same people would answer these two questions about you?

Prayer: God of never-ending love, help me to love others the way you have loved me.