

## MEET IN THE MIDDLE

<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'" <sup>24</sup> This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. **Genesis 2:18, 21-24 NLT**

## CHRIST-CENTERED RELATIONSHIPS

<sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." **Matthew 22:36-37 NLT**

- In a Christ-centered relationship **Jesus is where you meet.**
- We each have to work on **our personal walk with Christ.**
- Christ-centered relationships **pray together and for each other.**

## RELATIONSHIPS ARE TOUGH BY DESIGN.

<sup>21</sup> Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, <sup>22</sup> throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. <sup>23</sup> Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. <sup>24</sup> Put on your new nature, created to be like God - truly righteous and holy. <sup>25</sup> So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. <sup>26</sup> And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> for anger gives a foothold to the devil. <sup>28</sup> If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. <sup>29</sup> Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. <sup>30</sup> And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. **Ephesians 4:21-32 NLT**

- God calls us to **die to self.**
- God uses relationships to reveal how we have **offended God.**
- God will **renew you** through the power of His Spirit.
- God desires that we **dump the evil behaviors that destroy relationships.**

- God commands us to be **Christ-like.**

## LEAN INTO GOD'S PEOPLE FOR WISDOM.

*Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.* **Proverbs 12:15 NLT**

*Stay away from fools, for you won't find knowledge on their lips.* **Proverbs 14:7 NLT**

## GOD RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF IN CHRIST.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **2 Corinthians 5:17-21 NIV**

God is all about **reconciliation** and we should be as well.

## Next Steps for me today...

- Ask God's Holy Spirit to reveal **any offense.**
- Decide today to make Christ the **center of your relationship.**
- Determine today to **work as hard at your marriage as you do anything else.**
- Register right now for the Pursue God Marriage Conference.