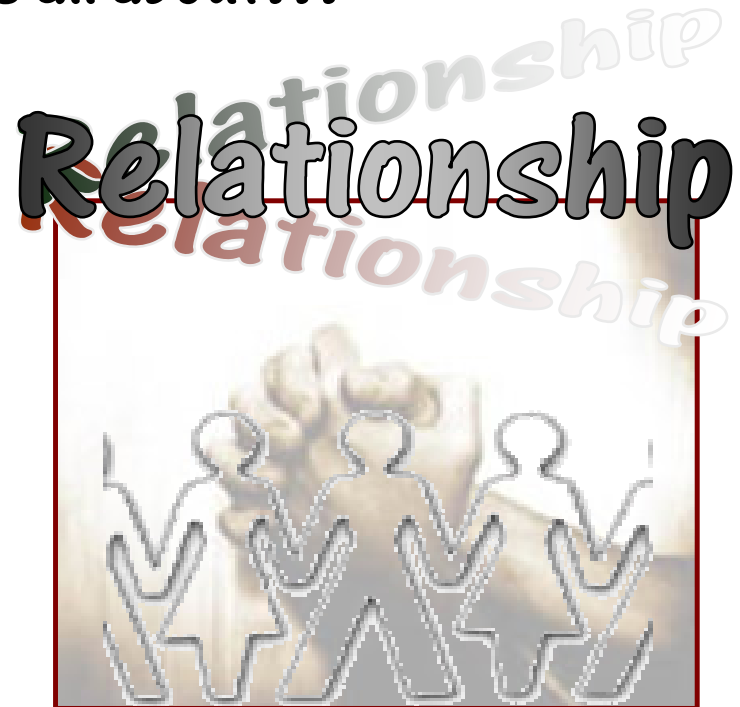


IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

Series outline

May 20	When it comes to God: it's all about relationship
27	When it comes to life: it's all about relationship
June 3	Marriage: it's all about relationship
10	Home and family: it's all about relationship
17	Achieving a work/life balance: it's all about relationship
24	St Andrew's Roseville: it's all about relationship

It's all about...



**When it comes to marriage:
it's all about relationship!**

St Andrew's Roseville
2007

When it comes to marriage: Its all about relationship!

Genesis 2:15-25; see also Ephesians 5:21-33

Review questions

1. Adam had all those wonderful animals to play with, yet he was all alone, and this was not good! Why? And what does the writer mean by the 'suitable helper' in Genesis 2:20?
2. What is meant by 'one flesh' in Genesis 2:24?
3. Why were the man and woman naked, but feeling no shame?
4. Mark quoted the marriage service from the prayer book: *Marriage is the symbol of God's unending love for his people, and of the union between Christ and his church.* How is marriage a symbol of 'God's unending love for his people' etc? See also Ephesians 5 vv31-32.

Reflection/application questions:

1. If man and woman are meant to be 'one flesh' in marriage, what steps can we take to ensure that our marriages embody this principle?

To aid your discussion: Mark explained something of what this looks like: *On the same page with priorities and spending and home and holidays and cars and entertaining and giving and children and discipline* and he also commented that *Marriages have become about two people living together – sharing house... and all too often couples have lives which are pretty separate... I've known of couples who have separate holidays, separate bank accounts, separate real estate, separate portfolios... and the whole Biblical vision of what it means to be 'one flesh' is lost!* Any reactions? Thoughts? Insights?

2. If being naked and feeling no shame was the beautiful situation from which we fell at the fall, can we recover some of what that means – at least in part? How?

To aid your discussion: Mark explained something of what this looks like: *In all our marriages we are to be completely open with each other, to hide nothing from each other, to share honestly, to talk about everything, to let one another into what we are thinking, to be utterly ourselves with one another, to make ourselves vulnerable to one another, to be one another's closest confidant and companion... and as he does that work [Christ remaking us in his image] and we grow in him, then together, married couples must work on being open and honest and candid...*

Any reactions? Thoughts? Insights? Any for single people – any principles to be taken and applied in your family relationships and close friendships?

3. See question 4 of the review questions. How can our marriages more nearly reflect this one profound and amazing marriage between Christ and his church?
4. Discuss Mark's 10 points for guarding or rediscovering marriage as relationship, or 7pm members can discuss 10 ways to think about marriage as relationship for the future:

10 ways to rediscover relationship:

1. put your marriage second
2. make time (rejecting the 'quality' time paradigm)
3. quit using work/email/blackberry to avoid relationship
4. learn to talk
5. be naked
6. coffee weekly
7. dinner monthly
8. get away by yourselves at least twice a year
9. share your first love
10. pray

10 ways to prepare for marriage:

1. make sure your relationship with God is always your first passion!
2. enjoy and revel in all your friendships
3. practise deep, costly, sacrificial love
4. don't get too serious too early
5. never get serious with an unbeliever
6. make sure that any boy/girl relationship is about relationship
7. marriage is far far bigger than sex
8. ...but the only place for sex
9. share your first love
10. pray