



## Christianity and Relationships

### 1. The Primary Relationship

“God IS love”

“Agape” (Define)

God's love is extravagant.

The nature of authentic love is to reach beyond itself. It needs an object.

God loves everyone. 1John 3:16; 4:8b-10; John 3:16

### 2. God made human beings for a close living, growing relationship with himself.

He made us “In his image”, relational beings. Not to be independent but interdependent.

(i) We have not become what God intended

Rom 3:21 All have sinned and fallen short of the beauty of God's plan.

(ii) Because God loves, through Christ he made it possible for this close relationship to be restored.

God did through Christ what we could never do for ourselves.

Col. 1:20

2Cor. 5:17

(iii) What God has done in Christ becomes real for us through faith.

He did not make us puppets but gave us free wills to accept or reject God's offer of a restored relationship with him through Christ.

(iv) Those who have faith in what God did through Christ have their relationship restored

(v) Disciples of Christ are indwelt by the Holy Spirit who enables them to relate to God. and be transformed to live like Christ (“to love as I have loved.”

)

Through the Holy Spirit the love of God flows into and through them to God and others.

We love others not to gain God's grace but out of gratitude for all God has done for us in Christ.



# Christian Mentoring

JOHN MALLISON MINISTRIES

## **3. This relationship with God needs to be maintained and developed.**

(i) Assurance Christian certainty

- Outer witness
- Inner witness
- Witness of Scripture

(ii) Prayer

(iii) Knowledge and understanding of Scripture and obeying it.

- Initially read gospels.
- Suitable reading guide for age and education level.

## **4. Relationships play a major role in making disciples.**

Adapted for adults (men / women), youth, children.

(i) Initial mentoring / coaching

(ii) Ongoing mentoring

- Nurturing holiness (Christlikeness)
- Spiritual gifts discovery and development

(iii) Bonding with - spiritual mate

(iv) Building a prayer base.

- Ask people to pray
- Give items for prayer and report answers.

(iv) Small Groups

- triads
  - small growth group
  - small mission group (evangelism and social concern)
- [Development of cell leaders] & leaders meetings]