



# RCCG OCEANIA

Relationships

## RESTORING GOD'S AUTHORITY IN RELATIONSHIPS

### AT A GLANCE

#### BIG IDEA

In a world where relationships face numerous challenges, understanding God's authority and intention for relationships is crucial. By examining biblical examples and teachings, we can learn how to cultivate love, commitment, and self-awareness in our relationships. This study will guide you through the complexities of love, marriage, and self-love as seen through the lens of scripture.

#### PRIMARY PASSAGES

Genesis 2:18-25

1 Corinthians 7:8

1 Corinthians 7:26-28

Romans 13:8

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Marriage is not the solution to loneliness; it requires understanding and commitment.
- Love is a deliberate choice and an ongoing act of will.
- Self-love is essential for healthy relationships with others.
- Marriage offers commitment, loyalty, and security but also comes with challenges.
- Biblical teachings provide guidance on navigating the complexities of relationships.

## INTRODUCTION

Relationships are a fundamental part of human life, and understanding them through the lens of God's authority can provide clarity and purpose. This study explores the biblical foundations of relationships, focusing on love, marriage, and self-awareness, to help us navigate the challenges we face in our interactions with others.

## SCRIPTURE READING

- **Genesis 2:18-25** — The creation of Adam and Eve highlights the first human relationship and God's intention for companionship.
- **1 Corinthians 7:8** — Paul advises that remaining unmarried can be beneficial, emphasizing the value of singleness.
- **1 Corinthians 7:26-28** — Paul warns that marriage can bring troubles, urging careful consideration of its challenges.
- **Romans 13:8** — Love is described as a continuing debt, underscoring the importance of love in all relationships.

## KEY POINTS

### 1. UNDERSTANDING MARRIAGE AND LONELINESS —

Marriage is not a cure for loneliness. It requires a deep understanding of oneself and the other person to truly fulfill its purpose.

The creation of Adam and Eve in Genesis illustrates God's intention for companionship, but it also shows that marriage is not the only solution to solitude. Paul, in his letters, emphasizes the value of singleness, suggesting that fulfillment can be found outside of marriage.

- Reflect on your personal understanding of companionship.
- Consider how you can find fulfillment in your current state, whether single or married.
- Seek to understand your own needs and those of others in your relationships.

Scripture: Genesis 2:18-25

1 Corinthians 7:8

### 2. THE CHOICE OF LOVE —

Love is more than a feeling; it is a conscious decision and an act of will. Romans 13:8 describes love as a continuing debt, highlighting its ongoing nature. This perspective encourages us to view love as a deliberate choice that requires effort and commitment, rather than a fleeting emotion.

- Identify ways you can actively choose to love others in your daily life.
- Reflect on how you can demonstrate love as an ongoing commitment.
- Consider the impact of viewing love as a choice rather than a feeling.

Scripture: Romans 13:8

### 3. THE ROLE OF SELF-LOVE —

Self-love is foundational for loving others effectively. Understanding and valuing oneself is crucial before entering into relationships. By recognizing our own worth and needs, we can better engage with others in a healthy and balanced way.

- Reflect on your self-perception and how it affects your relationships.
- Identify areas where you need to grow in self-awareness and self-acceptance.
- Practice self-care as a means of preparing to love others well.

## KEY POINTS (CONT.)

**4. COMMITMENT AND CHALLENGES IN MARRIAGE** — Marriage provides a framework for commitment and security but also presents challenges. Paul warns that marriage can bring troubles, urging careful consideration of its challenges. Understanding the balance between the benefits and difficulties of marriage can help us navigate its complexities with wisdom and grace.

- Reflect on the challenges you face in your marriage or relationships.
- Consider how you can strengthen your commitment to your partner.
- Seek guidance from biblical teachings to navigate relationship challenges.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:26-28

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

## OBSERVATION

- What does Genesis 2:18-25 reveal about God's intention for companionship?
- How does Paul view singleness in 1 Corinthians 7:8?
- What does Romans 13:8 say about the nature of love?
- What challenges does Paul mention in 1 Corinthians 7:26-28 regarding marriage?

## INTERPRETATION

- Why might marriage not be the solution to loneliness according to Genesis?
- How can love be seen as a choice rather than just a feeling?
- What role does self-love play in forming healthy relationships?
- How can understanding the challenges of marriage help in maintaining a strong relationship?

## APPLICATION

- In what ways can you find fulfillment outside of marriage?
- How can you actively choose to love others in your life?
- What steps can you take to improve your self-awareness and self-love?
- How can you prepare for or address the challenges in your marriage or relationships?

## PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for wisdom to align relationships with God's intentions.
- Ask for strength to choose love and commitment daily.
- Seek guidance in understanding and valuing oneself.
- Pray for grace to navigate the challenges of marriage.

## NEXT STEP

Reflect on how you can align your relationships with biblical teachings and embrace God's authority in your interactions.

## **CONCLUSION**

Understanding God's authority in relationships provides a foundation for navigating the complexities of love, marriage, and self-awareness. By aligning our relationships with biblical teachings, we can cultivate deeper connections and find fulfillment in our interactions with others. Let us strive to embrace God's intentions for our relationships, choosing love and commitment as guiding principles.