

### THE FOUR RELATIONAL SPHERES

**Matthew 22:37-40** <sup>37</sup>Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'[d] <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5** <sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

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### YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

**John 15:4-5** <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

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### RELATIONSHIPS IN THE HOME

**Ephesians 5:1-2, 21** <sup>1</sup>Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ... <sup>21</sup>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- Spouse
- Father
- Mother
- Child
- Finances
- Singleness

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### RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD'S FAMILY, THE CHURCH

**Ephesians 4:29-32** <sup>29</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- Position/Part in the body
- Gifts/Abilities
- Loving the Family of God
- Conflict Resolution
- Purpose of the Church

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### RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD

**Ephesians 6:12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- Employees
- Employer
- Ethics
- Hobbies
- Friends
- Neighborhood
- Community

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### CONCLUSION

**John 13:34-35** <sup>34</sup>A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

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### QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS IN LIFE GROUP OR WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

**Passages to consider:** Matthew 7:24-27; Ephesians 1:3-14, 2:11-22, 5:21-6:4, 6:5-9.

1. What did the sermon show you personally?
2. Read Matthew 7:24-27. What is significant as you look at the passage this time?
3. What are the big rocks in your life? A) How do you know if that's what you actually practice? B) What do you think your calendar, checkbook, and mental energy would show you?
4. What big rocks do you need to add? Or what rocks do you need to adjust (whether invest in or decrease)? A) What would that look like for you? Be as specific as possible.
5. What "gravel and sand" competes with the big rocks in your life? What will you do with that tension this season?
6. Choose one big rock: Abide, Church, Home, Work/World. Take time to pray and make a plan about how to align it to what the Holy Spirit is showing you. Share it with someone.

**Next week: New Series:** The Right Fight

**Passages to prepare:** Galatians 5:16-26; Philippians 4:8; Micah 6:8; Ephesians 5:15-17