

HOW TO *Strengthen* A RELATIONSHIP

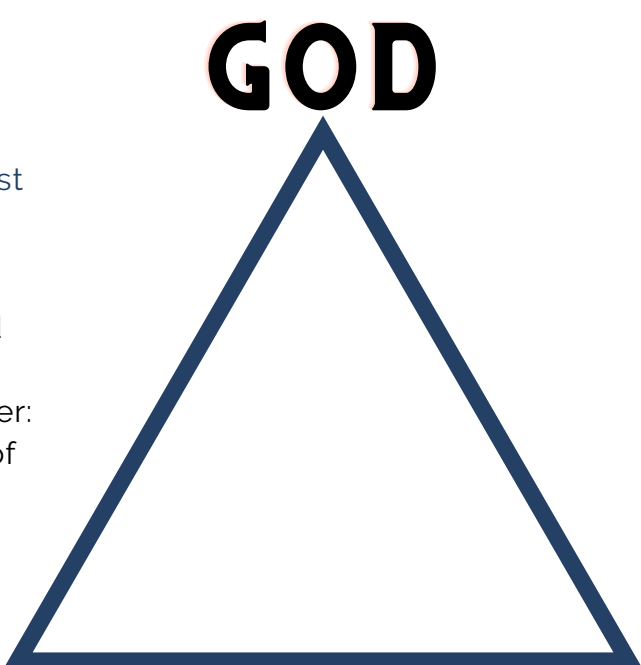


AT THE CENTER

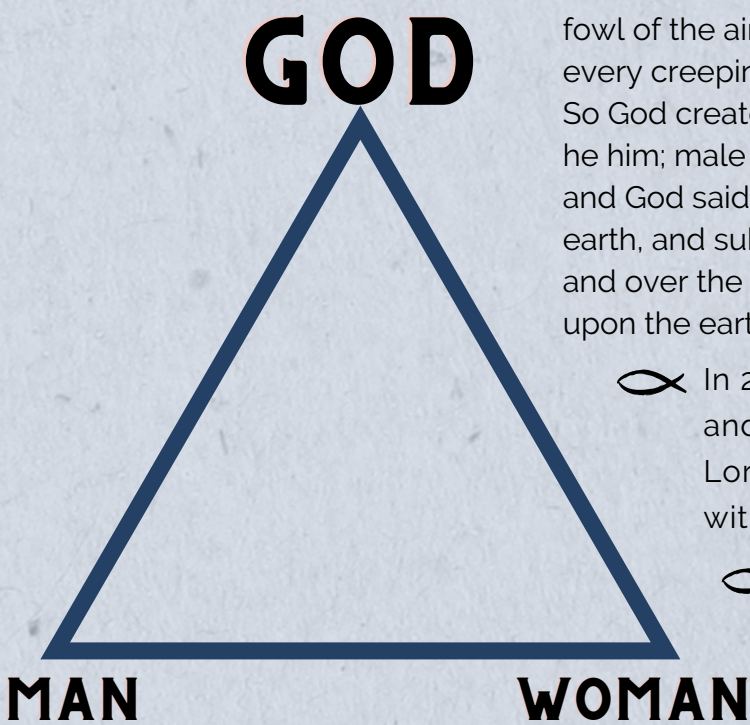
A triangle is the strongest shape. It provides equal balance and strength. The Bible teaches "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33

Our first and foremost relationship should be with God the Father. David wrote in Psalm 27:4
"One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple."

The first step in building a *Strong* relationship is to follow God's Word. "And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. Mt. 22:37-40



GOD MADE MAN



"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

✠ In 2 Corinthians 6:18 it says, "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." God wants to walk hand and hand with His children.

✠ Romans 8:16-17a "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ..."

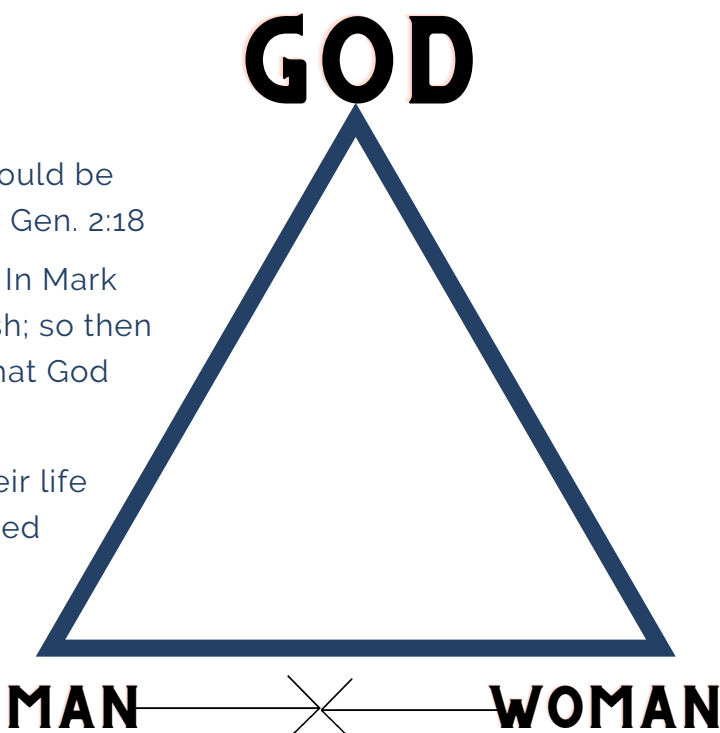
THE TWO SHALL BE ONE

And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." Gen. 2:18

It is God's plan that men and women should marry. In Mark 10:8-9 we read, "and the two shall become one flesh; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

A common theme occurs once a couple begins their life journey together. They forget the reason God created them in the beginning.

It was for *Fellowship* with Him.



Instead the couple begins "seeking" each other. Rev. 2:4 says, "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love." When you seek another person, life can become stagnant. Couples begin seeking the approval of each other and growth is not longer toward the Father. This often leaves the individuals feeling weak, alone, and insecure in their relationship with each other. This is NOT the way God intended the union to be. .



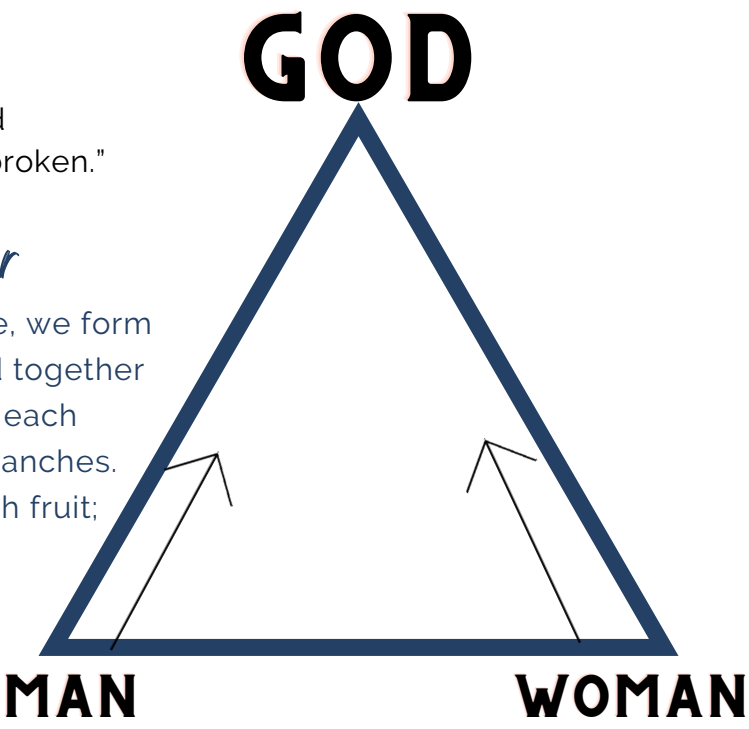
A THREEFOLD CORD

"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."
-Ecclesiastes 4:12

The Father must always be our center

When we come together and seek the Lord as one, we form a union that no man can stop. As we seek the Lord together we not only grow closer to Him, but also closer to each other. John 15:5 says, "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.

When *seeking the Lord together*, a firm foundation is built for your relationship. Then it is possible to walk in the calling He has designed for each of us.



"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17

HOW TO WALK IN A GODLY RELATIONSHIP



"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up..." 1 Thes. 5:11



"Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." - 1 Peter 5:7



"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." - Eph 4:29



"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for man." - Col. 3:23



"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." - James 1:19-20



"Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?" - 2 Cor. 6:14



"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."
- John 15:13

AT THE CENTER

The result of seeking the Lord together and growing closer to Him, is that we become closer to each other.

A strong relationship requires a solid Foundation.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock." - Mt. 7:24-25

