**Loving Our Neighbors**

**Why Should I Care about Building Friendships?**

**I. God Is a Relational God (Gen 1:26-27, 2:7-10; Rev 21:1-4; 22:1-5)**

A. His Trinitarian nature which makes Him the only properly functioning community

**Matthew 3:16-17** - *After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.”*

B. His creation of Adam and Eve in His image in relationship to Him

C. His creation of the church, a community within which He dwells

**II. You Were Made to Be in Relationship**

Blessings of relationships

* Love and support—**Proverbs 17:7** - *A friend loves at all time, and a brother is born for adversity.*
* Speaking Truth—**Proverbs 27:6** - *Faithful are the wounds of a friend.*
* Growth—**Proverbs 27:7** - *Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*
* Encouragement—**Proverbs 27:9** - *Oil and perfume make the heart glad, so a man’s counsel is sweet to his friend.*
* Companionship—**Genesis 2:18** - *It is not good for man to be alone*.

A. The blessings of earthly relationships remind us of ultimate joys in relationship with God

B. The challenges of earthly relationships remind us of our need for grace in relationships

C. The goal of earthly relationships then is not to have friends but to be the kind of friend that Christ was to us

**III. You were not made for isolation from God or others (Gen 2:18; 3:24; 4:14-16; Ps 22:1)**

A. Aloneness is a condition needing a solution

B. Aloneness is considered a curse

**IV. God Gives Hope for Growing Relationships Now**

**I Corinthians 1:9-10** - *God is faithful through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ as Lord. Now I exhort you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.*