

Growing in Relationships

Relationships are the Staff of Life

We are born into relationships.

In all of life we live in the midst of relationships.

"Who was the Greatest – Moses or Jesus?"

Both were on about relationships. Both led the new creation. Moses had it down to 10 simple principles. Jesus summarised it in 2 principles.

They, the nation, had some idea of the supremacy of God. He, Jesus, expanded their vision in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Two points about relationships. – care or indifference.

Might the parable be more about 'The Good God'? What love and care He shows. Might the innkeeper be the Holy Spirit?

Relationship One – Love God

Who is God? What a silly question! The hymn writer proclaimed, "Immortal, invisible God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes" (See 143 TIS) Instead of us being made in the image of God, do we make him in the image of us?

Christ lifted the corner of the curtain and gave us a glimpse of the Immortal. Wow! "What is man that Thou shouldst love him?"

Can we imagine plural universes?

How do we see and live with the forces of creation all around? Including the ways they operate.

Did and does God love Hitler, Stalin and Pol Pot and Co,?

In the midst of the pandemic we are told that viruses were here before life as we know it!

Is my God big enough to encompass all of that?

How do we love God? Another silly question?

The steps that occur in falling in love Marriage stories – being attracted; getting to know; freely giving and taking; being as one.

The same processes are involved in loving God

Relationship Two – Love Neighbour

The Parable of the Good Samaritan talks about anyone I can help. The ten commandments are about not harming the other.

How far does it go in respecting differences? What about today's international situations?

Think when I last found a neighbour – The checkout person; the person 'lost', or crossing the road; closing the door for a disabled person; my sister's story. Did you see Jesus in them? Did they see Jesus in you?

Relationship Three - Love Yourself

What; be self-centred or narcissistic?

The story of the two Australians lost in London.

Know who am I; or better still, whose am I?

What does it mean to live as God's precious child; to belong to the family? How are you treating that unique person that God made you and gave himself, in Christ, for you?

The messages from the Psalmist

Read from Psalm 139. 1 – 12; 23 - 24