

When we say, "We want to be good friends and neighbors having backyard barbeques and front porch discussions."

- What does this make you think of?
- How does or how could it play out practically in your life?
- What are some of the barriers that keep us from pursuing this ideal?
- Do we want to pursue this ideal badly enough that we can figure out ways to overcome those barriers?

When we say, "We want everything we do to introduce or enhance relationships with Christ and others."

- What does this make you think of?
- Do you feel like you have or are experiencing it?
- Are there ways that we can be even more intentional about it?

Kasey discussed the idea of God being relational and creating mankind in His image means that mankind is also relational. Take a look at Genesis chapter 1.

- How are the elements of creation in days 1-5 introduced? (vs. 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24)
- How is the creation of mankind in day 6 introduced? (vs. 26)
- Why do you think the language is different, what significance does it have?
- What do you think it means to be created in the image of God?
- Take a moment to reflect on the FACT that YOU have been chosen to be an image bearer of the One True Living God...how does it make you feel?

Kasey briefly discussed the idea of Adam and Eve being naked and feeling no shame. He pointed out that this meant more than physically naked, but that it meant they were completely open, honest, and transparent with each other. It meant they were fully known and fully accepted. Take a look at Genesis 2:18-25.

- Why do you think God said it's not good for man to be alone when, at that time, man had a relationship with God?
- Why do you think God had Adam see and name all of the animals before creating Eve?
- Why do you think God chose to take a rib from Adam to create Eve instead of making her from the dust of the ground like He had Adam?
- When you think about the idea of being naked and feeling no shame, the idea of being fully known and fully accepted, what comes to mind?
- Have you ever experienced a relationship in which you felt fully known and fully accepted (erasing not just the need, but even the possibility of any shame)?

Kasey pointed out that after the fall Adam and Eve hid from God and this was the evidence that the relationship was now broken. Take a look at Genesis 3:8-10.

- Knowing the meaning of being naked and feeling no shame in chapter 2, what do you think the significance of Adam and Eve covering themselves with fig leaves is?
- Why do you think Adam and Eve tried to hide from God in the garden?
- Have you ever tried to metaphorically (or even literally) hide from someone because your relationship with them was damaged? What were the underlying feelings that led you to believe that you had to hide?
- What is the significance of the fact that God calls out to Adam and Eve when they are hiding?
- How does it make you feel to know that as an image bearer of God, He seeks you and calls you out from places of shame?

Kasey stated that the rest of Scripture is about God's pursuit of us and His attempts to make right our relationship with Him. Ultimately, He does this by coming to us in the flesh through Jesus. Take a look again at John 1:1-14.

- When you consider that the ever existing, all creating God would pursue a right relationship with you to the extent of putting on flesh and dwelling among us, how does it make you feel?
- When we talk about the idea that Jesus has been tempted in every way we are, that He has experienced every kind of emotion that we do, do you believe it?
- How does it feel knowing that God Himself not only knows you intimately, but also your feelings, emotions, thoughts, struggles, worries, joys, and dreams?
- Doesn't that kind of sound like being fully known?

Lastly, Kasey talked about Jesus saying the most important commandment, or law, was to love God and the second was to love others. Take a look at Matthew 22:34-40.

- What do you think it means to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, body, and soul?
- What do you think it means to love your neighbor as yourself?
- Is it really possible that ALL of the law and prophets are summed up in this?
- When we consider that Paul says in Romans 8 that if we love each other we have fulfilled the law of Christ, where should our focus as individuals be?
- Where should our focus as a church be?