

PULPIT COMPANION

**BLUEPRINT FOR
BELONGING:
GOD'S DESIGN
FOR OUR
RELATIONSHIPS**

GENESIS 1:26-27

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In this powerful message, we're reminded of God's divine blueprint for our relationships. Drawing from Genesis 1:26-27, we see that we're created in God's image, designed for connection with Him and each other. The speaker emphasizes that our first connection is with God, challenging us to embrace this blueprint rather than trying to remake ourselves.

The message beautifully illustrates how love is the core of God's design, using Matthew 22:37-39 to show that loving God and loving others are inseparable. We're encouraged to look beyond our pain and see the sacrificial love that surrounds us, much like the unconditional love symbolized by the cross. This blueprint for relationships isn't just theory—it's meant to be built upon. We're called to make an 'ultimate effort' in our relationships, mirroring Christ's sacrificial love for us.

This message invites us to reflect on how we can actively build and strengthen our connections with God and others, living out the blueprint He has designed for us.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Genesis 1:26-27
- Genesis 2:18
- Matthew 22:37-39
- 1 John 4:20
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- John 13:34
- Ephesians 4:2-3
- Colossians 3:13





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Created for Connection

Reading: Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:18

Devotional: God's blueprint for humanity is fundamentally relational. We are made in His image, designed for connection - first with Him, then with each other. Today, reflect on your connections. Are you nurturing your relationship with God? Are you fostering meaningful connections with others?

Remember, even in paradise, Adam was incomplete without relationship. Pray for God to reveal areas where you can deepen your connections and live out His design for your life.

Day 2: The Standard of Love

Reading: Matthew 22:37-39, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Devotional: Love is the core of God's blueprint for our relationships. It's not just an emotion, but an action that connects us to God and each other. Meditate on how patient, kind, and selfless love truly is. Where in your life do you need to apply this standard of love? Ask God to help you love others as He loves you - unconditionally and sacrificially.

Remember, without love, our relationships cannot stand or flourish.

Day 3: Building on the Blueprint

Reading: Ephesians 4:2-3, Colossians 3:13

Devotional: God's blueprint for relationships is designed to be built upon. It requires effort, humility, gentleness, and patience. Today, consider a relationship in your life that needs work. How can you make an effort to keep unity through the bond of peace? Pray for the strength to forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Remember, unity is not automatic - it requires intentional effort and grace-filled actions.





Day 4: The Ultimate Effort of Love

Reading: John 13:34-35, Romans 5:8

Devotional: Jesus demonstrated the ultimate effort of love through His sacrifice on the cross. He didn't just try to love us - He gave everything. How does this challenge your approach to relationships? Are you making an "ultimate effort" in your connections with others, or merely trying? Ask God to fill you with His sacrificial love, enabling you to go beyond surface-level interactions to deep, meaningful connections.

Day 5: Growing in Grace and Unity

Reading: 2 Peter 3:18, Ephesians 4:15-16

Devotional: As we build on God's blueprint for relationships, we're called to grow in grace and mature in our faith. This growth isn't just for our benefit, but for the unity of the body of Christ.

Reflect on how you've grown in grace recently. How has this impacted your relationships? Pray for continued growth, asking God to help you speak the truth in love and contribute to the unity and maturity of His church. Remember, we're not just growing old - we're called to grow up in Christ.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE:

"God's Design for Our Relationships"

Opening Prayer:

Key Scripture:

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor mentions that we are "created to be connected." How does this idea challenge or affirm your view of relationships?
2. Reflect on the statement: 'The standard and measurement of love is sacrifice.' How have you experienced this in your own life?
3. The sermon talks about "missing photos" in our life albums. Share a time when you realized you had overlooked or underappreciated acts of love in your life.
4. How does the concept of love as an action (as described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7) differ from popular cultural views of love?
5. The pastor emphasizes making an "ultimate effort" in relationships. What might this look like in your current relationships?
6. Discuss the connection between forgiveness and unity. How have you seen this play out in your personal experiences?

Practical Applications:

- Relationship Inventory: Take time this week to reflect on your key relationships. Identify areas where you can make more effort to build connection and unity.
- Gratitude Exercise: Write down three "missing photos" – instances of love and sacrifice you may have overlooked in your past. Share these with a loved one if appropriate.
- Love in Action: Choose one way to demonstrate active love (patience, kindness, humility, etc.) in a challenging relationship this week.
- Forgiveness Step: If there's someone you need to forgive, take one small step towards reconciliation this week, even if it's just praying for them.
- Unity Building: Identify one way you can contribute to unity in your family, church, or community. Commit to taking action on this in the coming week.





Key Takeaways:

1. God has a blueprint for our relationships that has already been established.
2. The standard and measurement of God's love is sacrificial and unconditional.
3. Love is an action that always connects, not just an emotion.
4. We are called to build upon God's blueprint through effort and intentionality.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His blueprint of love and ask for His help in building relationships according to His design.

