

Freedom in Christ



Strange thing about marriage -- God created human beings to yearn for two levels of relational intimacy. The first level of relational intimacy can be met by establishing a deep, honest, trust-filled relationship with another person, be it a friend or a marriage partner.



The second level of intimacy that all human beings yearn for can only be met by entering into an authentic, growing relationship with God.



Now, most unmarried people are only conscious of their first level of yearning, the yearning for a significant relationship with another human being, preferably one they can marry. But subconsciously they also long for that second level of intimacy that only God can meet.



The two yearnings often get mixed together in the minds and the hearts of an unmarried person. The result is the doubling of the drive to find the person who can satisfy all of the individual's yearnings for intimacy.



Perhaps what is even worse is when the single person finds someone to marry and then discovers six months into the marriage that a good portion of their intimacy yearnings are still going unmet. Then what?



Then spouses often pressure each other to try to meet needs that only God can meet. If they aren't very careful, they can destroy the relationship themselves by putting too much pressure on it, expecting human beings to meet intimacy needs that only God can meet.



A relationship with God doesn't make us odd ... it
makes us whole!



What is the impact of that broken relationship?



We are born separate from God



We are born separate from God

Ephesians 2:12 (ANIV)

¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.



We are born spiritually dead



We are born spiritually dead

Ephesians 2:1-2 (ANIV)

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.



We are born outside God's family



We are born outside God's family

1 Peter 2:10 (ANIV)

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Colossians 1:21 (ANIV)

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour.

**We are born with impulses that lead us away
from God**



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Romans 7:18-19 (NLT)

¹⁸ And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. ¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.



We are born with impulses that lead us away from God

Ephesians 2:3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.



Why did God give the Ten Commandments?



Isaiah 64:6 (NLT)

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we proudly display our righteous deeds, we find they are but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall. And our sins, like the wind, sweep us away.



How do we Restore our relationship with God?



Galatians 3:24 (ANIV)

²⁴ ... The law was put in place to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.



“In the beginning was the Word...In him was life, and that life was the light of men” (John 1:1-4).

“I have come that they may have *life*, and have it to the full” (John 10:10).

What Adam lost was *life*. What Jesus came to give us was *life*.



Separate

BUT ... In Jesus we are brought near



Ephesians 2:12-14 (ANIV)

¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.



13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,



Spiritually Dead

But ... In Christ Spiritual life regained



Ephesians 2:1-5 (ANIV)

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.



We are born outside God's family

But ... In Christ we are restored to God's family



1 Peter 2:9-10 (ANIV)

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



**We are born with impulses that lead us away
from God**

But ... In Christ we can know freedom



Romans 6:14 (ANIV)

¹⁴ For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

