

I. Introduction

- A. When preparing today's message, I thought of the old saying "Birds of a feather flock together".
- B. This took me back to my youth on the east coast of FL and Pelicans flying in formation above as you lay on the beach.
- C. This does not just happen, God made them that way
- D. Many examples in God's creation regarding this truth:
 - 1. Pack of dogs, herd of elephants, school of fish, swarm of bees, army of ants,

II. Created man in His image to have a relationship with us

- A. As fascinating as the relationships within animals are, even more so that man is made in God's image
- B. Genesis 1:26, "26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the [a]sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
- C. We are of the same feather as God
- D. We are special

III. Genetics with our earthly parents

- A. But, we struggle with even being created in our parents image, much less God
- B. We usually don't fully appreciate the saying, "the apple does not fall far from the tree" until later in life.
 - 1. For those unfamiliar with the saying, your parents are the tree and you are the apple. Not falling far from the tree means you are much in their image.

2. It might be a physical trait you suddenly notice (e.g. a way of speaking or a laugh) or a capability (e.g. a talent for musical instruments or working on engines).
3. We start to see our parents in us (e.g. Phelps shoulder as riding).
4. What happens next is a miracle in that we start to relate to our parents.
5. It does not mean that we no longer respect and honor our parents, but even more.

IV. Genetics with our Heavenly Father

- A. Now this struggle relating to our parents is typically even greater with our Heavenly Father.
- B. Again as with our parents, what physical traits we share with God should help us relate to Him.
- C. For example, Moses experienced God showing his back (i.e. physical like ours)
 1. Exodus 33:21-23, 21 Then the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand *there* on the rock; 22 and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.”
- D. Scriptures describes God having a right hand
 1. Colossians 3: 1, “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”
- E. God came to Jacob in a body able to wrestle physically

1. Afterwards in Genesis 32: 30, 30 Jacob named the place [a]Peniel, for *he said*, “I have seen God face to face, yet my [b]life has been preserved.”
- F. Let’s not forget man experienced Immanuel or God with us (Christ).
 1. In John 20:27 Jesus *said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see **My** hands; and reach here your hand and put it into **My side**; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.”
 2. 1 Cor 15:49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy (Adam) we shall also bear the image of the heavenly (Christ).
- V. Shared capabilities help us relate to Him
 - A. In addition to physical traits, what we share in capabilities should help us relate to God
 - B. Romans 1:20 states, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”
 - C. He is a creator, and it is seen all around us in nature, in laws of physics, chemistry, etc.
 - D. In His image, we too have the ability to create
 1. When you write a song, design a dress, and paint a scene—you are creating like your Heavenly Father.
- VI. He is more than just the scriptures
 - A. I get excited reflecting on being made in God’s image for a relationship and all that we share in traits and capabilities.
 - B. Then, I think how am I doing in this relationship?
 - C. If I am honest with self, my strength is a devotional time but I am weak communicating the rest of the day.

1. John 5:39-40, it says “**39** [a]You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; **40** and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”.
 2. Now Jesus is talking about the unbeliever but the believer struggles transitioning from scripture to relationship.
 3. It should be a relationship that doesn’t drain you.
 4. We’ve all had the relatives visit and then you are drained when they leave.
 5. Time with God should be as natural as with a member of our household.
- D. In the reading this morning, John 15:12-17, Christ said I am your friend. I have shared with you what I am doing.
- E. Is your relationship with Christ what you’d call a friendship? Do you share what you are doing with Him?
- VII. There is no one right relationship
- A. I wish I could give you the exact blue print for that friendship.
 - B. But, there is no one size fits all, it’s complicated, dynamic, but possible.
 - C. This is demonstrated in the life of a father & son you might know—David & Solomon
 1. Praise: 1 Chronicles 28:1-8, “Now David assembled at Jerusalem all the officials of Israel, the princes of the tribes, and the commanders of the divisions that served the king, and the commanders of thousands, and the commanders of hundreds, and the overseers of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, with the officials and the mighty men, even all the valiant men.

- a) His relationship was not hidden, but a natural part of who he is. Calling together the people most important to him to praise God
2. Humility: “² Then King David rose to his feet and said, “Listen to me, my brethren and my people; I *had* ^[a]intended to build a ^[b]permanent home for the ark of the covenant of the Lord and for the footstool of our God. So I had made preparations to build *it*. ³ But God said to me, ‘You shall not build a house for My name because you are a man of war and have shed blood.’
 - a) You might say that’s not fair since God was sovereign over David being a fighter.
 - b) David was Humble accepting the relationship as God defined it.
 - c) Most importantly, David interacted with God regarding a plan. Yes God spoke, but we have the HS giving us the same counsel.
3. Thankfulness: “⁴ Yet, the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me from all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever. For He has chosen Judah to be a leader; and in the house of Judah, my father’s house, and among the sons of my father He took pleasure in me to make *me* king over all Israel. ⁵ Of all my sons (for the Lord has given me many sons), He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. ⁶ He said to me, ‘Your son Solomon is the one who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be a son to Me, and I will be a father to him. ⁷ I will establish his kingdom forever if he resolutely performs My commandments

and My ordinances, as [c]is done now.’ 8 So now, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God, observe and seek after all the commandments of the Lord your God so that you may possess the good land and bequeath *it* to your sons after you forever..”

a) David was thankful that God used him at all

VIII. Seek, be courageous and act

A. Prior verses David reflected on what God had done, and next what Solomon or we must do.

B. 1 Chronicles 9, “9 “As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with [d]a whole heart and a willing [e]mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever. 10 Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be courageous and act.”

C. It is a beautiful recount of man interacting with God in planning and teaching his son to do the same.

IX. No need to reinvent

A. As we close our message today, I hope you are encouraged that there is no need to reinvent how to be relational with our Heavenly Father

1. The apple hasn’t fallen far from the tree because you are made in His image.

a) We have similar physical traits and abilities with God.

b) When we realize this, it does not mean we honor Him less but more.

2. Share with Him what you are doing beyond your devotional time.
3. Make Him part of your household and not a visiting relative: plan together as David did.
4. Then, be courageous and act.