



Dear Friends,

***Romans 5:10-11 (NLT) For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. 11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.***

Relationships. God declares relationships to be of the highest importance. This is how we know:

- God decided to reveal himself in relational terms – Father, Son, and Spirit.
- God designed humanity to be in relationship with him.
- God came to earth in human form so he could pay the death-penalty for our sins, and thereby give humanity the ability to be in eternal relationship with him.
- God designed humanity to need each other – friend with friend.
- God designed marriage to bring two distinct people into a single focused relationship, where mutually open vulnerability creates the ultimate blessing of a one-flesh experience of love.

Marriage. How well are we doing? It breaks my heart to know that Christian marriages are just as damaging as ones who don't claim to live in God's power. Why are we so hurtful...?

I want to address those of us who are married today. How are you doing in passing on the lessons you have learned about marriage to your children or other young people. This has been on my mind because our son and his girlfriend are engaged. We are very excited about welcoming Tess into our family. She is a brilliant, confident young woman who loves God and my son. We couldn't ask for anyone better. So I question: How have I done in regards to passing on the lessons I've learned about marriage?

In very Bev-like fashion, I've come up with an idea. On Sunday we are hosting an engagement celebration party. My siblings and my husband's siblings will be there along with Tess' parents. We all are experiencing lengthy marriages. What a perfect opportunity to voice the marriage lessons we have learned. After a scrumptious lunch (graciously supplied by Costco and M&M MeatsJ), each couple will be given a statement to complete. I'm expecting much laughter and perhaps even a few tears as couples share truths from their marriages. This interaction can't help but make a lasting impact

on my son and his fiancé as well as on the number of other young couples that will be present. Here is a sampling of the statements we will be completing:

- The great thing about my spouse is...
- What we love to do together is...
- One thing I remember hearing about marriage that turned out to be true is...
- The important thing for me in our marriage is...
- In our marriage God has always...
- The hardest time in our marriage was when...
- What has kept our marriage strong is...
- We handle conflict by...
- The best holiday we ever took was...
- One of the best dates we ever had was...
- In the first year of marriage we lived...
- On our first date we...
- Adam and Tess, make sure you...
- Our wedding was...
- On our honeymoon we...

Maybe you have teen or adult children that need to hear the story of your marriage. Or you are the child and want to hear your parent's story or the story of someone whose marriage you admire. You are very welcome to use the above exercise. What statements would you include? Or how would you make room for discussing marriage? I would love to hear your suggestions.

Let's keep praying for each other and for those that we know with Christian marriages. In a way, we are in this together because our decisions affect others whether we are conscience of it or not.

God planned relationships. Jesus died for relationships. How are yours doing?

Blessings from Bev



**Northview**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

© 2010 Northview Community Church  
32040 Downes Rd Abbotsford BC V4X 1X5  
Phone: (604) 853-2931 Fax: (604) 853-9921  
General Info E-mail: [northview@northview.org](mailto:northview@northview.org)  
*"Loving God, each other, and the world"*