



<b>DATE</b>	February 12, 2017
<b>SPEAKER</b>	David Smith
<b>TITLE</b>	Lasting Relationships
<b>SERIES</b>	There's a lot of relationship advice out there. So what's God's prescription for healthy relationships? Let's take a closer look at the book of Ephesians to learn more about God's plan to help our relationships thrive.

**Introduction:** Today, pastor David said: God created us to be in relationships and meant for them to last. In today's message we examined the World's and God's prescription for achieving them.

1. Describe your version of a healthy relationship. What is your personal experience with successful or unsuccessful lasting relationships? How has this impacted your pursuit for a lasting relationship?
2. As you consider the magazines Pastor David showed during the message and his statement about finding someone that "completes you" how do you see these ideas pervading our culture? How do you think they also impact the Christian community?
3. Pastor David said that love is a choice. And yet, feelings are still part of relationships. What is the proper balance between "choosing to love" and "feelings of love" in a relationship? Especially in a newly developing one? Is there still a version of falling in love for Christ-followers or do you think it should be describe differently?
4. Read Ephesians 4:25-27; 4:29-32; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 4:19; 1 Corinthians 13: What lessons do these passages provide on the prescription of *becoming the right person* for a lasting relationship? What else do you think is important in becoming the right person for a lasting relationship?
5. Read James 3:17. David pointed out 6 things that specifically address how to manage relationships.
  - Compromise my integrity
  - Provoke your anger
  - Minimize your feelings
  - Criticize your suggestions
  - Emphasize your mistakes
  - Mask who I am

Discuss these areas as a group. Where would you say you could personally use some work in your goal to become the right person?

6. Discuss what you think it means to walk in love. What do you think are evidences of this in a relationship? Can you think of modern stories or Biblical stories that demonstrate this?
7. Pastor David emphasized the importance of a spiritual connection for Christ-followers. What else would you say about the importance of involving God's Spirit in a long-lasting relationship?

**Conclusion:** Ask yourself this question: Am I fixing my eyes on Jesus or attempting to fix other people? What adjustments might you need to make in response to this week's message?