

## Image of God: Relational Beings

Sunday, January 5/19

*Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.'* (Gen.1:26 -27)

*We were created... to long for relational connection, because God exists in a relationship of love. God designed us to enjoy giving and receiving. He designed us to be FOR another... and receive FROM another. This is what it means to be a relational being. Because we bear God's relational likeness we can commune with God. We also have the capability of connecting with each other in mutually self-flourishing ways.* (Richard Plass & James Cofield, *The Relational Soul*)

1. How are we created to be relational, even as God is relational?
2. How do we as broken image bearers engage in broken relationships?
3. How does healing take place in our relationships through trusting in Jesus Christ?

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- In Steve Brown's book, *Leading Me*, he writes - *To follow Christ's example and to lead ourselves well, we need healthy relationships. We need to choose to lean into community, even when it's not perfect.*' (p. 77). Assuming that your relationships are not perfect, what keeps you from leaning further into the 'imperfect' community God has placed you in?
- How 'authentic' are the relationships among average church goers? What could be done to deepen spiritual friendships in the church so that we are more of a blessing to one another?