

"Life is relationships; the rest is just details. This is the greatest truth. Everything in life that truly matters can be boiled down to relationships." Gary Smalley

"Love is the secret of a lasting heritage. I have been at the bedside of many people in their final moments, when they stand on the edge of eternity, and I have never heard anyone say, "Bring me my diplomas! I want to look at them one more time. Show me my awards, my medals, that gold watch I was given."

When life on earth is ending, people don't surround themselves with objects. What we want around us is people – people we love and have relationships with. In our final moments we all realize that relationships are what life is all about. Wisdom is learning that truth sooner rather than later. Don't wait until you're on your deathbed to figure out that nothing matters more." Rick Warren

"Community is what you were created for. It is God's desire for your life. It is the one indispensable condition for human flourishing....The yearning to attach and connect, to love and be loved, is the fiercest longing of the soul. Our need for community with people and the God who made us is to the human spirit what food and air and water are to the human body." John Ortberg

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34,35



A. We are designed for relationships by God

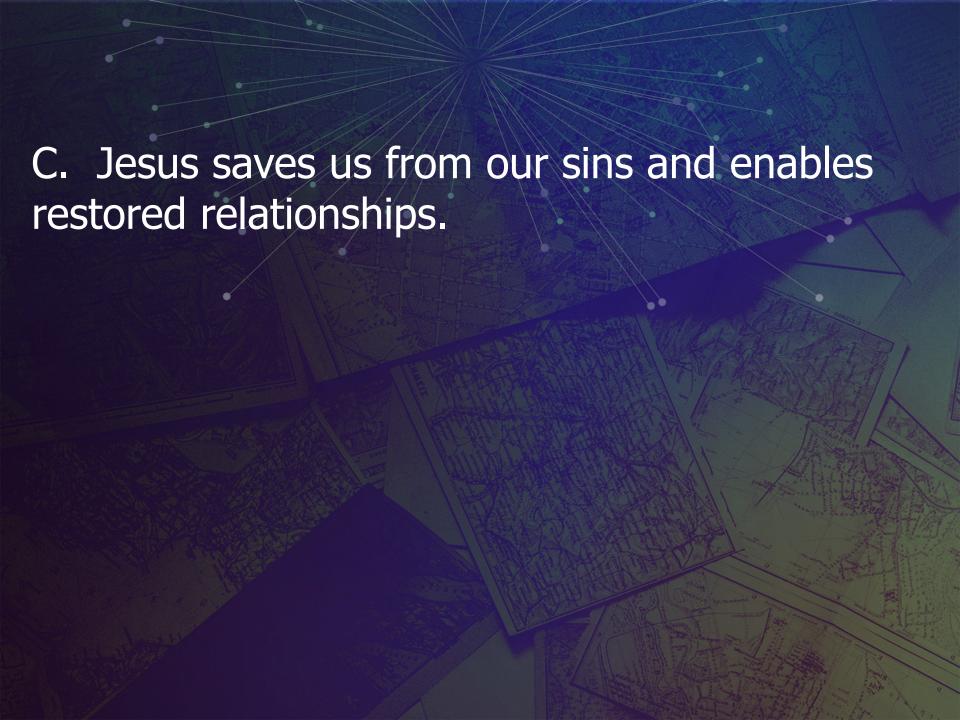
Genesis 1:26,27 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.



B. The Fall of Mankind (Genesis 3)

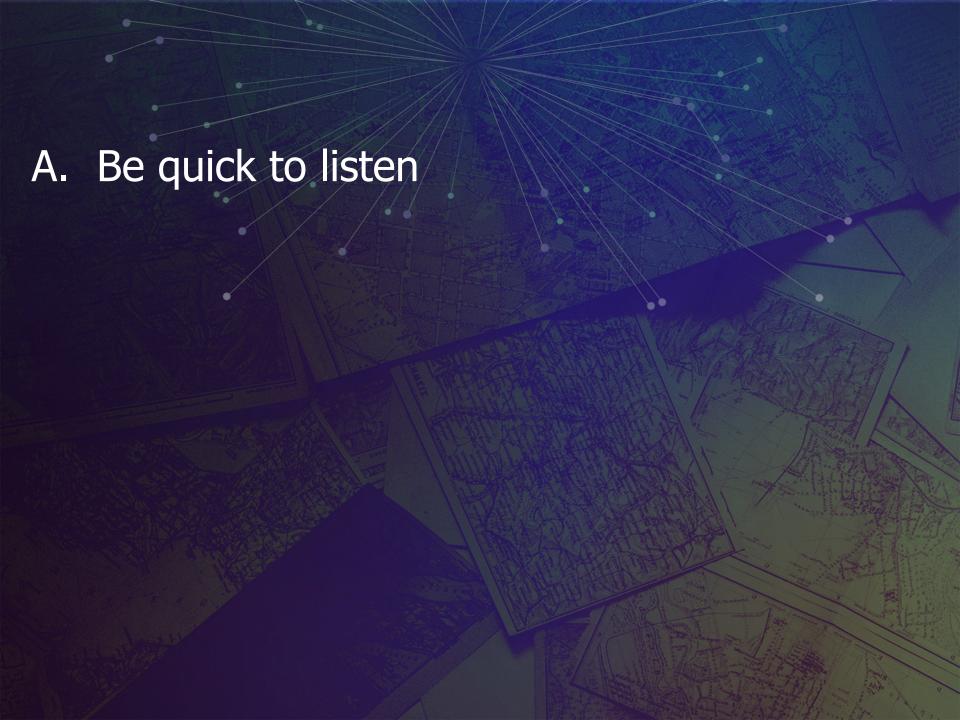
"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23



C. Jesus saves us from our sins and enables restored relationships

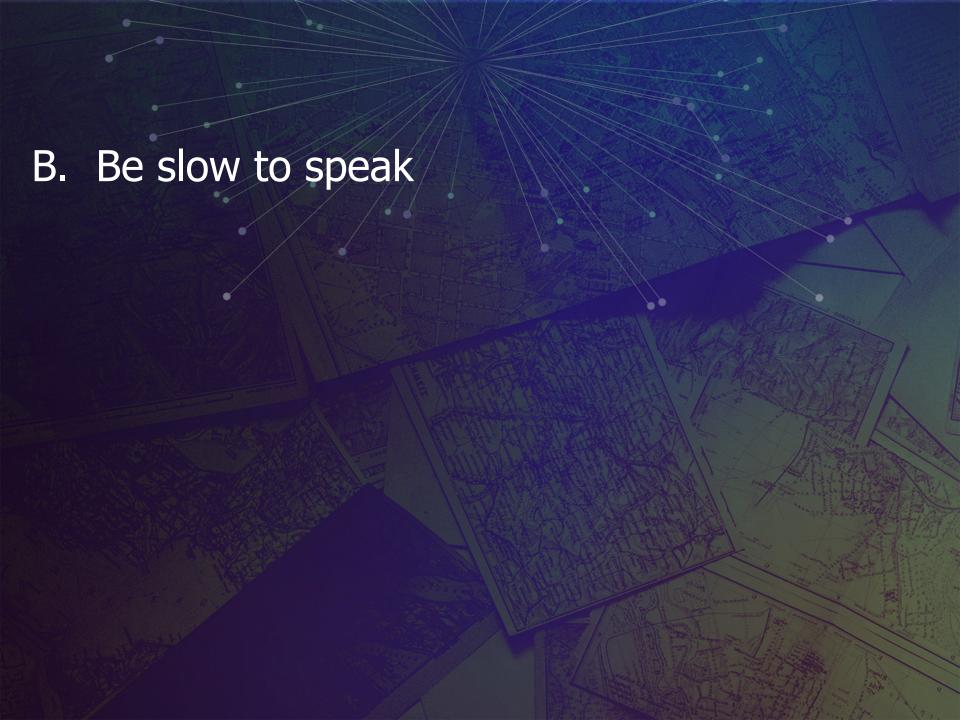
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37,38

James 1:19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.





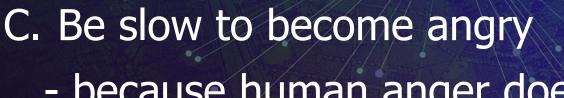
"The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said." Peter Drucker



B. Be slow to speak

"Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." Proverbs 12:18

"When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise." Proverbs 10:19



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