

## HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP?

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It's that wonderful time of the year again when we see sweet chocolates adorning the different aisles of stores, and beautiful roses are displayed to catch our attention and convey a message of love. Everywhere we turn we are faced with items that can be bought to encourage a loving relationship.

The world capitalizes on the very need in all of us that is God designed: love and relationship. From the very beginning, God created relationship. He knew man did not need to be alone. Man needed a companion, a helpmate. That was His sole purpose for creating Eve.

Relationships do not thrive well without the investment of time, communication, thoughtfulness, gentleness, forgiveness, and compassion. That's just naming of few of the ingredients. If we have any level of maturity within us, we've learned that when we have neglected any of these key ingredients our relationship suffers.

When we neglect the upkeep of our yards, we can see an unruly growth of the grass, unwanted growth of weeds, and eventually we may find some unwanted creatures lurking in that high grass. Continual upkeep is necessary to maintain a healthy and safe yard. This is the same in our relationships.

On a more spiritual level, we need to maintain our relationship with our Heavenly Father. If we neglect investing time and communication with Him, our spiritual life suffers greatly. We actually become spiritually starved. (Hmmm...a picture of anorexic just came to my mind) If we can find the time to shop for Valentine's Day cards, candy, gifts, flowers, and spend money at a fancy restaurant to invest in our earthly relationship with our loved one, shouldn't we be spending just as much quality investment in our love relationship with our Lord!

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