

**The hard and beautiful work  
of relationships in Christ**  
**Class 1: Relationships are rooted in the very nature of reality,  
in other words, rooted in who God is and how he made this world.**

- Course outline:
  - Tonight: Why are relationships so important?
  - March 29: Perennial dynamics that trip us up.
  - April 5: The usually hidden, yet most significant dynamic in relationships.
  - April 12: Things we can do to help build good relationships in Jesus Christ.
- Relationships have a deep power to shape and define who we are: power to shape us well. Power to shape us badly.
- An example of each.
- Why are relationships so important in making us, us?
  - Because relationship is everywhere, even at the very heart of reality.
  - The universe is this way because its Creator is this way.
    - Rublev icon.
    - Trinity drawing.
    - *Perichoresis*. (John 17:1-11, esp, vv. 3-5, 11)
- Why do we know both the good and the bad in relationships?
  - The good: We are made to share in God's life.
  - The bad: the result of the Fall of Adam and Eve.
    - Genesis 3:16
    - Genesis 4:1-16
    - Exodus 1-15

Questions for Discussion:

- What did you think of tonight's presentation?
- What relationships have been the greatest positive influence on your life? Why? How?
- What relationships have affected you negatively in your life? Why? How?