

August 21, 2022 Friendships

Encouraging Right Relationships

THE PURPOSE FOR THIS SERIES

Transformation & Equipping

THE GOAL OF THIS SERIES:

FULLY DEVOTED DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Romans 12:1... *Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, **but be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. (HSCB)*

1. FAITH: Nurturing the Soul

2. FOCUS: Renewing Your Mind

3. FEELINGS: Submitting our Emotions to God's Design

4. FOOD & FITNESS: Caring For Your Body

5. FRIENDS: Encouraging One Other

6. FUNCTION: Developing Your Work/Career into a Ministry

7. FINANCES: Becoming a Good Steward

We Were Created For Relationship

➤ **Created to have a Relationship with God**

Gen. 1:26, 27...²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**However, We Have Sinned & Caused Separation
In Our Relationship with God**

➤ **Created to have a Relationship with The
Created World**

Gen. 1:28...²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Gen 2:15...¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

**However, We Have Sinned & Abused Our
Relationship with the Created World**

➤ **Created to have a Relationship with One
Another**

Gen 2:18...¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper as his complement."

Romans 13:8 - Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. (about 59 'one another's in the Bible)

**However, We Have Sinned & Complicated Our
Relationship with One Another**

As you can see sin entered into the picture and the result was a broken relationship with all three areas. It is only through Jesus that these areas can be restored to God's original design.

Today's Goal...



All three areas are worth more time, but we only have time, and our focus, is on our Relationships With One Another - FRIENDSHIPS

Let me share a simple, yet profound principle to our relationships with One Another, actually it is just one word- and if we would truly understand and apply it there would be no need for me to say anything else...That word is ...LOVE. It is through Love in the Holy Spirit's direction that we can be transformed!

Transforming Our Relationship with One Another

Relationships with Parents/Family

Ephesians 6:1-3... *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”*

Psalms 127:3...*Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.*

Relationships with Fellow Christians

Hebrews 10:24-25... ²⁴ *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11...*So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing*

Ephesians 4:32... *Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you*

Relationships with Romantic Partners

Matthew 19:5-6 ...*And said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

Colossians 3:19...*And you husbands must love your wives and never treat them harshly.*

1 Peter 3:1-6...*Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.*

Exodus 20:14...*Thou shalt not commit adultery*

Hebrews 13:4 ...*Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous*

Leviticus 18:22... *'Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.*

Romans 1:26,27..."For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error."

1 Corinthians 7:5...*Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of lack of self-control.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ...*Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

Relationships with Co-Workers

James 1:19...*My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry.*

Romans 12:19...*Don't quarrel with anyone. Be at peace with everyone, just as much as possible*

Matthew 7:12...*Do for others what you would like them to do for you. This is a summary of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.*

Relationships with The World

2 Corinthians 6:14... *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?”*

1 Corinthians 15:33...*Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character."*

Luke 16:13..."No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Relationships with Friends

Proverbs 17:17...A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity

John 15:16 “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

Proverbs 13:20... He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 27:9...The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.

DO BEE DON'T BEE

Practical Relationship Do's & Don'ts	
DO	Don't
Conform to Love	Conform to selfishness
Communicate clearly	Shut down/Silent treatment
Be friendly Seek resolution	Let issues go unresolved
Encourage one another	Be negative and judgmental
Show grace/offer forgiveness	Be unforgiving or resentful
Be self-giving/helpful	Be self-serving
Show respect	Disrespect
Admit when you're wrong	Blame others always
Empathize with others	Patronize them
Trust in God	Be insecure and 'clingy'

Pray for others	Overlook their needs
Conform to God's Design	Conform to the world

Remember the Key Word is Love!

It's the Mark of a True Disciple and Friend



Invitation

