



Relationships

Sunday April 20, 2008

Part 1 : Getting Ready for Relationships

In life, normally no one lives alone on an island. We're surrounded by people and have to learn to relate to them.

Parents – Friends – Spouse – Colleagues – Customers – Boss – Strangers

People are wonderful, but...*none of us are perfect!*

While relationships with people are wonderful, they can be a source of great blessing, or a source of great testing for us.

What comes in to your life through the relationships you have, can either enrich or degrade your life.

God can use the relationships He has placed around us to refine us and help build our character.

God works through people around you to help you fulfill your life's purpose. And God has placed you strategically so that you can be instrumental in helping other's fulfill their purpose in life.

Relationships are a great opportunity for us to impart in to the lives of others.

Our relationship with God has to affect our relationships with people. Our relationships with people affects our relationship with God.

1John 4:20,21

If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

In this series on Relationships we'd like to discover the Timeless People Principles the Bible lays out for us.

Essentially we wish to answer the question: What does the Bible teach us on how to relate to one another? And as we learn these, we will make an effort to make them a part of our life.

Each of us have different levels of relational abilities and people skills. Some are naturally outgoing and can connect easily with almost any one. Some of us are more reserved, etc. But we can all learn how to related better to one another.

Do not listen to these messages and think about every one else who needs to be doing these. Rather, think about how you can apply this personally.

Two recommended books:

Living Life Without Strife (APC Publication)

Winning With People, John C. Maxwell, 2004 (Personal Comment: This book contains very little Scripture references).



Today's Message : Getting Ready for Relationships

How can I prepare myself to build healthy meaningful relationships with people? How can I be ready to deal with relationship challenges?

Why do we need to prepare ourselves in this area?

Because the experiences of life may have affected us in such a way that we are unable to relate to others properly, e.g. children who grew up in dysfunctional homes, or in homes where they never had positive relationships modeled for them, have to learn what it means to be a husband, what it means to be a father, and also what it means to be loved unconditionally by a parent. In homes where the parents were self-centered, children may grow up to be self-centered and just focus on their own needs, that others might as well not exist. Those who have experience pain in relationships either with their parents, or with an unfaithful or abusive spouse, or with a deceitful business partner, etc. see every other relationship through that experience.

Mark 12:29-31

Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE.

AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' This is the first commandment.

And the second, like it, is this: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:31

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

What if I do not love myself? What if I hate myself? What if I don't like myself – who I am, where I am, what I am doing, etc?

Why would some one not love themselves? There could be so many reasons:

- Unable to control them selves. Addictions.
- Failures
- Wrong choices, mistakes
- Abuse, what others have done have crippled them.

Husbands

Ephesians 5:28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

Key Points:

- How we relate to ourselves, influences how we relate to others. Hence, the first person we must examine is ourselves. (John Maxwell)
- How we see ourselves will influence how we see others.

Do you see yourself as God sees you – a person worthy of the greatest love that ever is? If you do, then you will see others the same way – people worthy of the greatest love that ever is, the love of God. And therefore they are also worthy to receive your love, unconditionally.

Do you extend grace to yourself when you fail? Do you believe in the God of the second chance?

- Hurting people hurt people and are easily hurt by them. (John Maxwell)



Hurting people tend to overreact, over-exaggerate, overprotect and over-influence (control).

You cannot undo past experiences. However you can receive healing and wholeness for hurts and wounds, and you can pursue positive experiences that will help you reprogram yourself – change your thinking about those situations.

- If I have a problem with everyone, then I am usually the problem. (John Maxwell)

People who often have problems in relationships, tend to look at everyone but themselves to explain their problem.

- Being at conflict with myself causes me to easily come into conflict with others.

Allow Christ to make us whole so that we can build wholesome relationships.

#1 : See yourself as who you are in Christ

Who you are in Christ, is who you really are.

Even if you have failed, recognize the potential you have in God.

If I look at yourself the way I am in the natural, I may not be too impressed. There may be many things I would get discouraged about. However, when I see who I am in Christ, I have so much to rejoice about. I can be confident of God's ability released through me. I can have assurance of a bright future in Him, etc.

#2 : Receive healing to inner hurts and wounds

Psalm 23:3 He restores my soul.

Luke 4:18to heal the brokenhearted.....

Isaiah 61:3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;

#3 : Let's stop blaming others and work on ourselves.

With the help of the Holy Spirit let's resolve issues in our lives that are causing problems in our relationships.

There could be several issues that are hindering us from building healthy relationships:

Anger

Proverbs 29:22 An angry man stirs up strife,

Irritability

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love suffers long and is kind;

1 Corinthians 13:5 (Love) is not irritable (easily provoked)

Lack of trust (mistrust), Very suspicious



Proverbs 31:11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.

Demanding, expect everyone else to be perfect but condone your own shortcomings

Matthew 7:1-5

1 Judge not, that you be not judged.

2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?

5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Bitterness

Hebrews 12:14,15

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

Contentious

Proverbs 26:21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Selfish

1 Corinthians 13:5 (Love) does not seek its own

Jealous

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love does not envy;

A true friend stands with you in times of hardship and celebrates with you in times of success.

Boastful

1 Corinthians 13:4 love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

Insensitive

Don't care about the feelings of others

Hypersensitive

taking things too personal

Controlling

Lack of Friendliness

Lack of proper model / lack of proper understanding

Discontentment / Unfulfilled



Some of us may say, I don't have any issues. I'm alright. It's the other person that I'm dealing who has all the problems. It could be that there is something in your blind spot. If you have been having recurring "relational accidents", it is possible that you've got some thing in your blindspot, and don't know about it.

Some one might say, what's the use of me dealing with these things, because the other person that I'm dealing with will never change. At least, by working through these issues, you will not let the negative experience you have had – affect other relationships that you have.

#4 : Imitate God

Eph 5:1,2 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Eph 4:31,32

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Luke 6:35,36

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

To my wife, I am to model the love of Christ that loves unconditionally, gives completely, nourishes and cherishes perfectly.

To my children I am to model the Fatherhood of God.

To those friends and strangers, I am to model the kindness and goodness of God.

To those whom I lead, I am to model the leadership example of Christ.

To those who lead me, I am to model the servanthood of Christ as He submitted Himself to the Father.

Conclusion

- Young person : before finding Mr. Right or Miss. Right – pause and first prepare yourself for this kind of a relationship
- Father/Mother :
- Son / Daughter :
- Employee :
- Employer :

Our success or failure in life can usually be traced back to the relationships we have had.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>