



## Relationships (part 2) Focusing on Others Sunday April 27, 2008

### Today's Message Part 2: Focusing on Others

#### **Philippians 2:4**

**Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.**

Our present state

Am I my brother's keeper

#### **Genesis 4:9**

**Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"**

The voice of indifference towards others

Why focus on others?

The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

The person who is need is your neighbor

The person who you do not know is your neighbor

Why is it that many times in life we are like the priest and the Levite?

Why is it that we do not care about the other person?

Why is it that we do not focus on others?

Lack of love

Fear

Self-centeredness

We have not been challenged to put others first. We have not come to a place where we have made it a way of life to focus on others.

Practical Keys to help us focus on others

Following principles adapted from John Maxwell's book "Winning with people"

### **1. Give preference to the other person**

#### **Philippians 2:3**

**3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.**

#### **Romans 12:10**

**Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;**

**Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. (Message Bible)**



## **2. Each person I meet has the potential to teach me something.**

**Proverbs 27:17**

**As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.**

We do have to be careful not to “learn” wrong things.

**1 Corinthians 15:33**

**Do not be deceived: evil company corrupts good habits.**

## **3. People are interested in the person who is interested in them and seeks their wellbeing.**

**Philippians 2:4**

**Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.**

**Matthew 20:28**

**just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many**

## **4. Believing the best in others usually empowers them to give their best.**

**1 Corinthians 13:7**

**bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

Barnabas – Paul, John Mark

## **5. Caring for people should precede confronting them.**

**Matthew 18:21,22**

**21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"**

**22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.**

The story of the ungrateful servant Matthew 18:24-35

**Proverbs 27:6**

**Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.**

**Ephesians 4:15**

**but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—**

Sometimes the way we present the truth, cause people to both reject us and the truth.

Never use a hammer to swat a fly off someone’s head. (John Maxwell)

People have feelings. Be sensitive to how they feel.

Your capacity to love comes from God. Romans 5:5

## **6. Be a people-lifter-upper**

We can lift people up or take people down (John Maxwell).



#### **Ephesians 4:29**

**Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.**

Speak words that edify

#### Dangers to avoid as you focus on others

- Don't make people dependent on you
- Do not let people abuse your care and concern
- You are not called to meet every body's need. But make sure that you do meet those who have been assigned to your life.
- Don't compromise on eternal values in the interests of pleasing people

#### Objective:

- **Putting others first should become a way of life**

#### Application

As husbands/Wives

- Instead of thinking what your spouse needs to do to meet your needs, how about focusing on what you can do for your spouse.

As Parents (Father/Mother)

- Your children are people too!

As Children

- Take time to minister to your parents.

As Employees

- Instead of always looking at how the company must meet your needs, or how your boss needs to pay more attention to you, etc. how about just giving 100% to what you have been assigned to do.

As Employer/boss

- Putting the needs of your employees above your own personal needs.

As a Church Family, As the people of God

- Pursuing the call of God to touch people above personal dreams

The stories of many who put people first:

William Tyndale

William Tyndale (c. 1494 – 1536) was a 16th-century Protestant reformer and scholar who translated the Bible into the Early Modern English of his day.

In 1535 Tyndale was arrested, jailed in the castle of Vilvoorde outside Brussels for over a year, tried for heresy and then strangled and burnt at the stake.

Tyndale's was the first English translation to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, and the first to take advantage of the new medium of print, which allowed for its wide distribution.

Much of Tyndale's work eventually found its way into the King James Version (or "Authorised Version") of the Bible, published in 1611, which, as the work of 54 independent scholars revising the existing English versions, is to a large extent based on Tyndale's translations.

Tyndale was accused of heresy and summoned by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Worcester on a charge of heresy. Foxe describes an argument with a "learned" but "blasphemous" clergyman, who had asserted to Tyndale that, "We had better be without God's laws than the Pope's." In a swelling of emotion, Tyndale made his prophetic response: **"I defy the Pope, and all his laws; and if God spares my life, I will cause the boy that drives the plow in England to know more of the Scriptures than the Pope himself!"**



He was tried on a charge of heresy in 1536 and condemned to death. Tyndale was strangled and his body burned at the stake. Tyndale's final words, spoken "at the stake with a fervent zeal, and a loud voice", were reported as "Lord! Open the King of England's eyes."

Hudson Taylor (Father of modern missions)

James Hudson Taylor (May 21, 1832 – June 3, 1905), was a British Protestant Christian missionary to China, and founder of the China Inland Mission (CIM) (now OMF International). Taylor spent 51 years in China. The society that he began was responsible for bringing over 800 missionaries to the country who began 125 schools and directly resulted in 18,000 Christian conversions, as well as the establishment of more than 300 stations of work with more than 500 local helpers in all eighteen provinces. "No other missionary in the nineteen centuries since the Apostle Paul has had a wider vision and has carried out a more systematized plan of evangelizing a broad geographical area than Hudson Taylor".

Jim Elliot

Philip James Elliot (October 8, 1927 – January 8, 1956) was an evangelical Christian missionary to Ecuador who, along with four others, was killed while attempting to evangelize the Waodani people through efforts known as Operation Auca.

While at Camp Wycliffe, Elliot practiced the skills necessary for writing down a language for the first time by working with a former missionary to the Quichua people. The missionary told him of the Auca people, an indigenous people group in Ecuador that had never had friendly contact with the outside world. Elliot remained unsure about whether to go to Ecuador or India until July, when he became convinced that God was leading him to Ecuador. His parents and friends wondered if he might instead be more effective in youth ministry in the United States, but considering the home church "well-fed", he felt that international missions should take precedence

His journal entry for October 28, 1949, contains his now famous quotation, expressing his belief that missions work was more important than his life. " **He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.**"

William Carey - India

And like these we can talk about several other men and women from almost every country on the earth – people who chose to place the call of God to minister to others, above their own personal ambitions and interests.

How about you?

Putting others first in our church and in our city.

**Genesis 4:8-10**

**8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.**

**9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"**

**10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.**

**Proverbs 24:11,12**

**11 Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.**

**12 If you say, "Surely we did not know this," Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?**



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

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

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

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

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

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

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

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