

MESSAGE NOTES

January 18, 2015

FAMILY VALUES: Right Relationships
Romans 12:9-21
Pastor Jeff Nelsen

- Relationships are the _____ we _____ to be _____ Jesus.
- Jesus makes us _____ w/God, changing how we _____. Rom 12:1-5

We value right relationships.

Because God took the costly initiative to make us right with Him, and because wrong relationships block His Holy Spirit, we seek to be right with others, build a sense of family and to be a caring community.

BUILDING LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

- _____: share w/those _____ & practice hospitality.
- _____: care by sharing in _____ & _____. Romans 12:15
- _____: enjoy the company of _____. Rom 12:16; James 2:1, 8-9

REPAIRING BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

- _____: and do not _____ those who _____ you. Acts 7:59-60
- _____: don't repay/retaliate but _____ to them. Lk 6:28, 35
- _____: make _____ move to apologize or forgive. Matt 5:23-24; 18:15-18

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:10

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:18

LIVING MORE INTENTIONALLY

- Yes Lord, I will _____ a loving relationship this week by...
- Yes Lord, I will _____ a broken relationship this week with...

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Helpful Wisdom When Resolving Conflict

- **Conflicts are inevitable, and can teach me a lot.**
Jesus had conflicts & I can know His help/grace by inviting Him into mine.
If I'll let Him, God can use conflict for my good to make me more like Jesus.
(Luke 22:47-48, 66-71; Genesis 50:20; Proverbs 3:6; Romans 8:28-29; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 5:5-7)
- **Remember forgiveness is often a process, not just a one-time event, and there are usually "layers" to sort through.**
Forgiving doesn't mean what the other person did to me is ok & doesn't matter.
Forgiving doesn't mean God is asking me to fully trust them again.
Forgiving doesn't mean getting rid of all healthy "boundaries."
- **In my hurt or anger, am I willing to admit there's probably more to this person & situation I can see or understand?**
(2 Kings 6:15-17; Job 42:3; 1 Corinthians 13:12)
- **Recall & pass on the mercy God has shown me in Christ.**
(Matthew 9:13; 18:21-35; Micah 6:8; Ephesians 4:30-32; Colossians 3:13; Titus 3:3-6)
- **Understand what Jesus says: that whatever I "loose" and let go of on earth, is also "loosed" and released in heaven.**
(Matthew 18:18)
- **When the LORD prompts me to go, obey and don't put it off.**
(Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-17; Mark 11:25; Luke 17:1-5; Romans 14:19; Hebrews 12:14-15)
- **By refusing to apologize/forgive, I give the devil a foothold.**
(Ephesians 4:26-27; 2 Corinthians 1:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:19)
- **When I go, seek to humbly restore them, not condemn them.**
Do a heart check: am I more interested in being right, or relating rightly?
When speaking, use "I" statements instead of accusatory "you" statements.
Cite specific, concrete examples of concern that can help them understand.
Then give the other person a chance to respond and share his/her side.
- **Then, whatever the outcome, stay open & humble before the LORD – always endeavoring to relate rightly.**
Even if the other person never changes or chooses to reconcile.
Even Jesus had people who refused to reconcile with Him.
My part is to do all I can to reconcile and then live in God's grace & approval.
If I have recurring thoughts of resentment, I will choose to focus on their good.
- **Repeatedly in prayer, ask God to bless and not curse them.**
(Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 23:34; Acts 7:59-60; Romans 12:19-21; Philippians 4:6-8; 1 Peter 3:9)