

## Relationship Goals...Healthy Relationship Principles

9/8/19 – Pastor Randy

---

### Created for Relationship

A. We were created for relationship with God. This relationship is expressed via two key words throughout the bible; walking and dwelling.

*“Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.” - Gen 5:24*

*Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. **Noah walked with God.** -*

*- Gen 6:9*

*I will **walk** among you; I will be your **God**, and you will be my people. – Leviticus 26:12*

*“O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to **walk humbly** with your God.” Micah 6:8*

*You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Exodus 19:4*

*And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may  **dwell** in their midst. Exodus*

*I will  **dwell** among the people of Israel and will be their God.*

*And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might  **dwell** among them.*

In the NT:

Paul, several times in four different letters, reminds his readers, “The Spirit of God  **dwells** in you.” James also references the dwelling of the Spirit in the believer. And then, at the end of Revelation, a wonderful picture of God’s plan of redemption reaching its climactic fulfillment is depicted with these words: *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. – Revelation 21:3*

Your most important relationship is your relationship with God.

**Jesus:** “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.

**David:** “*In the presence of the Lord is fullness of joy...*” -Psalm 16:11

*O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. – Psalm 63:1*

**Paul** said his greatest desire was, “That I may know him...”

## Relationship Goals...Healthy Relationship Principles

9/8/19 – Pastor Randy

---

Peter pledged his undying love for the Lord. When Jesus asked the disciples if they wanted to abandon Jesus like the crowd had, Peter's response was that there was no other place he would want to be than with Jesus.

B. However, you were not only created and redeemed for relationship with God. God created you for relationships with others and he redeemed us from our sin to not restore our broken relationship with Him but to restore our broken relationships with our neighbor.

We already heard the first part of Jesus answer to the question, "What is the greatest commandment?" Now listen to the second part:

*"And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." - Matt 22:39-40*

The wording of Jesus' response conveys the notion that we have one great commandment in 2-parts rather than #1 and #2 commandments. "The second is like it" is another way of saying "the second goes along with it".

**Your relationships are a spiritual matter because they matter to God.**

Jesus came to build His church; His people, His family. Jesus work of redemption was aimed at reconciliation; vertically and horizontally. *For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. Ephesians 2:14*

You can't separate your relationship with God from your relationship with others. The health of one has bearing on the health of the other!

A. Look at the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5). Most of these deal with relationships

B. The ten commandments begin with commands directed at our relationship to God, but the last several are directed at how we relate to others. However, the horizontal are never detached from the vertical.

C. Jesus said, "The world will know you are my disciples by how you treat one another." Your relationship to one another reflects your relationship with me.

D. John wrote, "How can you say you love God if you hate your brother?"

## Relationship Goals...Healthy Relationship Principles

9/8/19 – Pastor Randy

---

If we love God, we will take the time and put forth the effort at working to improve our relational skills.

John Maxwell who is one of the most highly regarded authorities on leadership wrote this: *“If you haven’t learned how to get along with people, you will always be fighting a battle to succeed. On the other hand, making people skills a strength will take you farther than any other skill you develop. People like to do business with people they like. Or to put it the way President Theodore Roosevelt did: “The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people.”* (johnmaxwell.com Nov. 27, 212)

Let’s look at some powerful personal relationship principles from Proverbs.

### A. How to Lose Friends and Alienate People

#### 1. Be critical (Proverbs 12:18a)

*Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.*

Dr.s Les and Leslie Parrot write, “Few things will shut down intimacy quite like being criticized or controlled, and it is capable of immobilizing your emotional health and personal growth, especially within your relationship.”

(See Symbis.com [IT’S NOT ME, IT’S YOU: WHY CRITICISM POISONS HAPPY MARRIAGES](#))

#### 2. Be obnoxious (Proverbs 27:14)

*A loud and cheerful greeting early in the morning will be taken as a curse!*

#### 3. Be overbearing (Proverbs 25:17)

*Don’t visit your neighbors too often, or you will wear out your welcome.*

#### 4. Be boastful (Proverbs 30:32; 12:23)

*If you have been a fool by being proud or plotting evil, cover your mouth in shame.*

*The wise don’t make a show of their knowledge, but fools broadcast their foolishness.*

#### 5. Be the winner of every debate/disagreement. (Proverbs 12:15)

*Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.*

## **Relationship Goals...Healthy Relationship Principles**

9/8/19 – Pastor Randy

---

### **6. Be a gossip (Proverbs 16:28)**

*A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.*

### **B. How to Win Friends and Influence People**

#### **1. Be loyal – especially in hard times. (Proverbs 17:17)**

*A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.*

#### **2. Be honest; tell them what they need to hear, not what they want to hear. Be more concerned with protecting your friend's life than his or her feelings. (Proverbs 27:6; 29:5)**

*Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.*

*To flatter friends is to lay a trap for their feet.*

#### **3. Give wise counsel (Proverbs 27:9)**

*The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.*

#### **4. Be forgiving and keep matters confidential (Proverbs 17:9)**

*Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.*

#### **5. Speak words that build up rather than tear down (Proverbs 12:18b)**

*Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.*

#### **6. Be a good listener (Proverbs 12:15)**

*Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.*

Close:

There is one common denominator in all these principles. Almost every principle related to losing friends and alienating people is a manifestation of selfishness and/or insecurity. Almost every principle related to winning friends and influencing people is the outgrowth of selflessness and security.

Selfless, secure people have much healthier relationships than selfish, insecure people.

## Relationship Goals...Healthy Relationship Principles

9/8/19 – Pastor Randy

---

This comes from Christ being formed in us. In Philippians 2:3-5, Paul wrote, *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.*

Having the mind of Christ is the foundation to developing these relational skills.