

# Fellowship and Friendship: paving the right way

1. come to an agreement: basic assumption must be made at the beginning:
  - a. If you had all the money, power, popularity in the world but didn't have good relationships life would be miserable.
    - i. DO YOU ALL AGREE?
  - b. But relationships have the power to ruin even the most seemingly perfect life.
2. how can we improve the quality of our lives?
  - a. by improving our relationships: God first of all and then each other. Today I focus on each other
  - b. not talking about boys and girls but FRIENDSHIPS
3. so what does the Bible show us ...it's a book of relationships right?
  - a. if you want real relationship advice, you won't find it in these multi-million dollar industry of self help books, dr. phil, oprah etc.....
  - b. Just as a simple examples: how does the beginning of the Bible start?
    - i. Focuses on how God created man to have a relationship with him
  - c. what about the end: Revelations:
    - i. focuses on how we can perfect that relationship with God
4. HOW DO WE GET STARTED ON FORAGING A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP
  - a. FIRST STEP: letting go of your past
    - i. Can't relate to present if I'm still reacting to past...
      1. WHAT DO I MEAN BY THIS? DO YOU AGREE?
    - ii. Can see this clearly in conversations we have. What do we love to talk about?
      1. first thing ppl like to talk about when they are stressed. Love to talk about the negatives.
  - b. super power come back story
  - c. If we carry this with us (resentment and regret) we're basically holding ourselves back and actively sabotaging our relationships both present and future.
5. PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14
  - a. One thing I do forgetting those things which are behind. That's what we will focus on today.
  - b. Rear view mirror, car crash idea
6. I MUST GIVE UP MY GRUDGES:
  - a. Ephesians 4:31-32 "put away from you" get rid of it, toss it out the window. Don't hold on to any resentment from past b/c it's going to ruin these ones.
  - b. As humans we rely on ppl to meet so many of our needs.
    - i. When someone lets you down in one of these areas, we get angry...this is natural (emotional, spiritual, etc....)
      - a. what's the other person doing in the meantime?
  - c. phrase "you make me so angry"..."you bother me so much"
    - i. WHAT DOES THIS SHOW ABOUT YOU?
  - d. St. Paul is telling us right here the it's something everyone has gone through.
  - e. JOB 5:2
    - i. SOMEONE GIVE US A WORKING DEF OF WRATH.
    - ii. Wrath doesn't kill the person who it's aimed at.
7. SELF EXAMINATION: ASK YOURSELF
  - a. do I have any resentment
  - b. do I have grudges against anyone

- i. friend, parent, sibling, against the church
    - ii. But how can you become one body w/ Christ and the church if you have a problem w/ everyone there?
  - c. you may not be able to see the longitudinal power that resentment has over you but it does....
    - i. WHAT DO I MEAN BY THIS?
  - d. BOTTOM LINE: GOD FORGIVES YOU AND YOU HAVE TO DO THE SAME FOR OTHERS.
- 8. #2 STEP: GIVE UP MY GRIEF:
  - a. Grieving not inherently a bad thing. It's a natural part of life.
    - i. Distinguish b/w moaning or complaining vs grieving
    - ii. self pity. Poor me, I'm a victim role WHY IS THIS WRONG?
    - iii. This causes us to build a wall around us. A self inflicted isolation that doesn't allow others to get it.
    - iv. Pain and sadness happen but don't let it make you it's prisoner.
  - b. how can we do it: easier said than done
    - i. let us use King David as an example...
    - ii. background of story
    - iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 12:16-18
      - 1. fasted, prayed, wept, that's what we expect right....of course God hears his prayer but child still dies.
      - 2. then he responds in a way that we should be able to follow.
        - a. STEP 1: Accept what cannot be changed (verse 22)
          - i. Moves on w/ his life about this. He knows he can't do anything about it.
          - ii. Must accept what cannot be changed.
        - b. STEP 2: play it down and pray it up
          - i. rather than making it bigger than it is he played it up toward God (verse 20)
          - ii. become proactive and went to church right? Couldn't he have just stayed home and said so what I can't go to liturgy etc.....
          - iii. whenever there is grief or sorrow, God wants us to concentrate on Him. Have to look past the situation and look toward the solution which comes from above
        - c. STEP 3: focus on what's left not what's lost
          - i. verse 24: he got another son which was Solomon. He knew that life wasn't over
- 9. get rid of my GUILT now. The third thing I've got to give up
  - a. This is the part when we have to know what God is and know what His forgiveness is all about.
  - b. Hockey and penalty box story
  - c. Going hand in hand w/ this is torturing others about their guilt
  - d. how do I get rid of my guilt? There are two ways...right and wrong way and we can see the example of each by examining St. Peter vs Judas ...
    - i. both sinned against the Lord for different reasons...basically the same if you boil it down. One we curse and the other we exult b/c of the way they reacted to it.
    - ii. Judas—Matthew 27:3-5. ultimate expression of self condemnation

1. "I've blown it. Done the worst thing. Deplorable, I can't be forgiven for this.
- iii. Confession of St. Peter—Mat 26: 75...
  1. wept bitterly. Same feeling and remorse. I made the biggest mistake and blew it. rather than taking some action and judging myself, I'll take it before the Just Judge Himself.
    - a. If you're not confessing your sin then you're probably doing #1...condemning yourself
    - b. So you go to God and say "I really let you down" how does he respond?
      - i. Eternal knowledge of mistakes
      - ii. Who's holding who up
  2. Avoid bargaining w/ God in your confession. Give me some examples of what I mean.
  3. don't blame other people
  4. it's as simple as confess and believe: 1 John 1:9...no blaming or bargaining

#### CONCLUSIONS:

5. GET RID OF NEGATIVITY (GRUDGES, GRIEVE, AND GUILT)
6. THIS WILL PAY OFF DIVIDENDS IN YOUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS