



#RELATIONSHIPGOALS

*Bringing People Closer Than Ever*

**CLOSER TO WHOLENESS**

*October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

# Closer to Wholeness

*Keep your eye on the healthy soul, scrutinize the straight life; There's a future in strenuous wholeness. But the willful will soon be discarded; insolent souls are on a dead-end street. - Psalm 37:37-38 MSG*

If you try to build intimacy with another person before you've done the difficult work of getting whole on your own, all your relationships become an attempt to complete yourself.

- Les Parrott, relationship expert

*But Jesus said, "Not everyone is mature enough to live a married life. It requires a certain aptitude and grace. Marriage isn't for everyone. ... But if you're capable of growing into the largeness of marriage, do it." - Matthew 19:11-12 MSG*

## Three Kinds of Relationships I Need to Be Whole

### 1. My Relationship with God – Profound FULFILLMENT

*I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God. - Ephesians 3:17-19 MSG*

### Three Things We Lost in the Garden

- Acceptance
- Security
- Significance

### 2. My Relationship with Myself - Unswerving FOCUS

*I want you to get out there and walk — better yet, run! — on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. - Ephesians 4:1 MSG*

## Four Points to Constantly Focus On

- Loving Christ
- Building Community
- Serving Need
- Sharing the Gospel

### 3. My Relationship with Others - Empathic **FAITH**

*[Pour] yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences. - Ephesians 4:2-3 MSG*

*Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. - Philippians 2:2-4 MSG*

*For a child has been born—for us! the gift of a son—for us! He'll take over the running of the world. His names will be: Amazing Counselor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness. His ruling authority will grow, and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings. - Isaiah 9:5-7 MSG*

## My Next Step This Week...

- Memorize *Ephesians 4:2-3*.
- Really focus on loving God, embracing my purpose, and helping people.
- Get involved in deeper community through a small group at Crosswind Church.
- Give my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

# Walk the Talk

## *A Small Group Discussion Guide*

1. Who do you know that has been adopted? What positive things came out of that kind of arrangement?
2. Read Ephesians 1:1-14 aloud to the group:
  - a. When you count your blessings, what do you put at the top of your list?
  - b. When you read verse 9, what is the “mystery” in Christ all about, according to the larger passage?
  - c. How does the “mark” of the Spirit secure your heart, according to verses 13-14? What are the marks of the Spirit in a person’s life?
  - d. Now review the same verses and claim one blessing out of the many you really like, and tell the group why you like it so much?
3. How do the three main points, in the sermon outline above, help you with a greater sense of personal wholeness? Which one do you need to work on more than the other two? Explain.
4. What verse, in the outline above, helps you embrace the idea of personal wholeness, more than any other? Share why.
5. Have a time of prayer for each other.