

Study Guide
RelationSHIFTS
Pastor Bobby Davis

Our lives are made up of relationships. Some examples include – husbands and wives; parents and children; employees and employers; coworkers and friendships. Our lives are only as good as our relationships, and everyone can work on making their relationships better.

How does the health of your relationships affect the quality of your life?

How can you shift your relationships so that they become healthier?

There are three relationship goals we can work toward as we seek to shift our relationships toward health:

1. Be FRIENDS.
2. Be FEEDERS.
3. Be FORGIVERS.

1. BE FRIENDS

A friend is defined as follows: One attached to another by **affection** or **esteem**. One that is not hostile. One that **favours** or **promotes** someone.

How do you measure the quality of your relationships?

Do you measure relationships according to how much you are favored or promoted?

Do you measure relationships according to how much you favor or promote someone else?

John 15:12-13 (NLT)

This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Galatians 6:7 (NKJV)

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Is your primary concern in relationships what you can reap or what you can sow?

What are some ways you can sow into your relationships?

Pastor Bobby mentioned that there is a primary reason that God brings us into relationships.

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

According to Proverbs 27:17 – What is the reason God wants us to have relationships?

We often misunderstand the basis of compatibility – making it about having the same interests. However, there is something that is more important than having the same interests – having the same purpose.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10.

How does focusing on purpose help us to live in harmony with those we differ from?

2. BE FEEDERS

Pastor Bobby emphasized the importance of cultivating a “we” culture over a “me” culture. If we do not weed and feed our relationships, there will be no growth.

What are some examples of a “ME culture” mentality?

What are some examples of a “WE culture” mentality?

James 3:14-17 (NLT)

But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.

In relationships, is your primary concern what you are getting or what you are giving?

3. BE FORGIVERS

Some relationships go from “great” to “we no longer relate.” Some relationships go from “we no longer relate” to “now we hate” – the individuals in these relationships have stopped *overlooking* faults and started *overemphasizing* faults.

Read Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:26-27; Ephesians 4:30-32

Do you find it easy to forgive others or difficult?

Have you ever considered how much your forgiveness cost the Lord (read Colossians 3:13 again)?

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NLT)

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

1 Peter 4:8 (NLT)

Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

The true test of whether you have a “me” or “we” mentality is to ask yourself if you are holding a scorecard or beholding the scoreboard. If we want “we” to win, then the team must win.

Do you tend to keep a scorecard of others' mistakes, or do you tend to focus on the scoreboard?

Do you cover your mate's mistakes, or do you uncover your mate's mistakes?

If we want to see a true shift in our relationships, then we must make three essential relationSHIFTS:

1. Be FRIENDS
2. Be FEEDERS
3. Be FORGIVERS