

04/25/21 Message

Part of Say What

April 24, 2021

****Message: Are You a Bridge Builder?**

Series: Say What

Recap: This is our second message in our **Say What** series. It's a series based around the fact we have questions and God has answers! Everyone is encouraged to submit their questions – about their faith, about God, theology, life... and we'll explore answers from a Godly point of view using the Bible. All questions may not be answered in the series, but everyone who submits questions will receive personal responses. Submit questions using the APP or online at www.fellowship.cc/saywhat

Introduction

One of the points made last week was – at some point, you will be discouraged with every **RELATIONSHIP** you will ever have.

Truth is, we all will encounter relationship problems, regardless of what the relationship is. The key is how we handle those problems, how we respond. It's all about building bridges!

The "Say What" questions of the week:

- How do I respond when someone hurts me or treats me badly?
- What if I'm hurt but the other person acts as if nothing is wrong?
- I have family members I haven't spoken to in over 40 years because we just don't get along... am I sinning against God?
- I am hurt at someone I went to another church with. It ultimately led me to leave that church. I can't seem to get over it. What should I do?

Here are some introductory hints to keep you from tearing down bridges:

- Choose WISELY who you confide in and vent to
- Never RETREAT and ISOLATE (sit and stew)

- You can't CHANGE your life until you CHANGE your life (it requires change)
- Understand that even the GREATEST relationships have the potential to become BAD

The Relationship Principles of Jesus

Philippians 4:1-9 (NLT)

1 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work.

2 Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement.

3 And I ask you, my true partner, to help these two women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. They worked along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life.

4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

5 Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.

6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

9 Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

And we can't forget one of the greatest passages in the Bible:

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- Our strength comes from JESUS
- Our strength comes from ONE ANOTHER

Healthy relationships require:

- LOVE, ENCOURAGEMENT, and SUPPORT (v1)
- FORGIVENESS, RECONCILIATION, and RESTORATION (v2)
- BRIDGE BUILDERS (v3)

Key verses “for your walk” with Christ (to write in the front of your Bible)

- John 3:16
- Romans Road (Romans 3:10; 3:23; 5:12; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9-10; 10:13) to Salvation
- Philippians 4:13
- Matthew 18:15-20

Healing Relationships

Strategies for healing relationships:

- REJOICE (vv.4-5)
- Don't WORRY (v.6)
- PRAY (v6)
- Focus on the POSITIVE and GOOD (v.8)
- FIX the relationship

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)

A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Please understand that I have no illusion that my words will start a revolution or that many will listen. But I can only be held accountable before God for my own actions., I choose to BUILD BRIDGES.”

—Thom Rainer

Are You A Bridge Builder

It takes a child of the King who sits on a throne of grace (and those who follow Him) to NOT fight a spiritual battle with sticks and stones!

—Pastor Chad

How to be a bridge builder:

- Stand firm on the Word of God
- Refuse to let conflicts tear down relationships
- When conflict happens, follow Matthew 18:15-20
- Come (serve) together as the family of God

Mathew 18:15-17 (NLT)

15 “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.

16 But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses.

17 If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

Everything changes when you are known as a BRIDGE BUILDER!