

Non Anxious Christmas | Part 3 | Relationships

Relationships

NOTES ARE IN APP

- <https://theelement.church/app>

Connect with us - Next Steps Form

- Text “Element” to 97000

Christmas Giving

- <https://theelement.churchcenter.com/giving/to/christmas-giving>

Christmas Eve - 24th 3:30

GIVING TIME:

- **4 WAYS TO GIVE**
- ONLINE: <https://theelement.churchcenter.com/give>
- APP: Give Tile
- TEXT: Text an “amount” to 84321
- MAIL: PO Box 52 East Lansing MI 48826

TODAY: Non Anxious Christmas | Part 3 | Relationships

Isaiah 9:6-7a

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

Matthew 22:36-40 - New International Version

36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

COMMAND 1:

1.) Love God above all else (talked a bit about this last week)

COMMAND 2:

2.) Love myself as God does (last week)

3.) Love others as God does, I love myself

7 Biblical Thoughts about Non Anxious Relationships

#1.) Relationships are messy, but worth it

- People (including you) are difficult, but worth fighting for
- We live in a fallen world
- **Romans 3:23** "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God..."
- We might be the difficult ones
- **ILL. Years ago, Cullen & I were invited to the CRU event Thursday night (Abdu Murray)**
 - "All world views/religions say you are the answer to your problems. Christianity is the only one that says you are the problem and the answer has to come from outside you." Abdu Murray
- **Our enemy hates healthy relationships**
 - God is relational
 - Love is relational
 - We are made to be relational
 - Source of greatest joy & deepest wounds, struggles & pain
 - Place of greatest potential & deepest defeat
 - Enemy has an all out assault

- HE IS RELATIONAL, so mucking up the relational GEARS (trust, communication, etc.) is more about your relationship with GOD than your relationship with YOUR BOSS or TEACHER or AUNT!

The places of the fiercest battles also have the potential for the greatest power and healing - SJH

- **Broken people in a system under siege**
 - [We need a supernatural solution](#)

#2.) Know there is a story behind the symptoms

ILL. When you wear glasses you see EVERYTHING through that lens

- Pain, offense, bitterness, unforgiveness
- Experiences
- **Shaded/Shades Everything**

ILL. Why did they do that?

- [Cause they got stuff going in there you know nothing about!!](#)
- The SYMPTOMS are plentiful but it is coming from the thing shading
- **Hurting people, hurt people**
- [See through the hurt to the need - Self Differentiation](#)

ILL. “See that person as a little girl”? (Method)

- Not mental gymnastics, understanding reality
- **Sometimes we won't know the story - but we can know there is one**

3.) We can't control people, only responses

- **Relationships are messy (context 1)**
 - Broken people
 - System under siege

- Stories of pain
- **... AND WE CAN'T CONTROL IT**
 - We cannot control other people
 - **Let that sink in.**
 - **Some people will not respond to us positively - be positive anyway.**
- **We can only control our response**
 - No one “makes” us do or feel anything - we choose to do or feel it
 - People can *strongly* invite us! :)
- **BUT WE CAN CONTROL OUR RESPONSE**
- **ILL. Complications in my extended family:**
 - Curse it, Nurse it, Rehearse it, Reverse it
 - Choose to choose your response
 - **ILL. Thermostat vs. Thermometer**
 - We get to choose how we are going to respond
 - Set the environment instead of reacting to it

4.) Trade fight or flight for grace and truth

What do we do with disagreements?

- Abandon our convictions? Run away (withdraw)
- Fight for our convictions? War

NO: STAY CLOSE TO MYSELF & STAY CLOSE TO OTHERS

DEFINE: Tolerance = the ability or willingness to tolerate something, in particular the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with.

Treat all people as equally valid
but not all ideas as equally valid.

No one treats all ideas as equally valid, few treat all people as equally valid

John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

God deals with us in BOTH -

We can only build trust with BOTH.

ILL. Christianity is not abstractly “close minded” - it is a different prescription.

Ailment? Lack of peace, satisfaction, purpose, internal stability, acceptance, love.

"All world views/religions say you are the answer to your problems. Christianity is the only one that says you are the problem and the answer has to come from outside you." Abdu Murray

5.) Just get out of it

- The books you read & the people you hang with will be greatest influence

- **God's heart is always reconciliation** but sometimes at the weakness of our flesh or the weakness of the Flesh of other people were not able to create health and sometimes we just need a break
- **You can't soar with eagles when you hang out with turkeys**
 - If you want to kill giants, follow giant killers
 - Sometimes you just need to get out of it.
 - SOMETIMES: Abusive relationships
- **"Boundaries" Dr. Henry Cloud**

Proverbs 14:7 - leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge.

6. Don't retaliate [Worship Team up]

(1 Peter 3:9 NLT) Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing.

- Easy to read, hard to live
- **ILL. "Swim with sharks"** (Easy to read, hard to live)
- "Don't retaliate... " ok, now ANOTHER thing?
- **"Pay them back with a blessing..."**

**Don't do to others exactly what was done to you.
Do to others exactly what God has done for you.**

Ephesians 4:32 NLT

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Matthew 5:44 NLT

But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

“You will never have to forgive anyone more than
I’ve already forgiven you.”
- God

- ILL. We don't work for Gods love and acceptance, we work from it... we can therefore pass it on.
 - “God you love them...”
- Pray for those who like you?
- Pray for those who treat you right?
- Pray for those who persecute you??

ILL. Jesus on the cross -

- “Father forgive them they don’t know what they are doing”

YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GO TO THE FATHER!!
When I pray I see people differently.

ILL. SCC - See through the fault to the need
(Common enemy)

7. Stop fighting them & start fighting for them

2 Timothy 2:23-26 (NIV)

23 Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading

them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

People have a common enemy - sin & satan
We are not each other's enemies

Sometimes people will not understand your intentions - continue to make them known.

Is. 58:11-12

...11"And the LORD will continually guide you, And satisfy your desire in scorched places, And give strength to your bones; And you will be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. 12"Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up the age-old foundations; And you will be called the repairer of the breach, The restorer of the streets in which to dwell.

FIGHT FOR THEM... (Prayer, Humility, Serve, Heal Breaches, Repair streets for your families to dwell in)

Prayer