

“ADJ - Relationships Part 1” (7-3-22)

Introduction: Relationships - they are essential in the life of a disciple (Main Text: John 13 & Romans 12)

John 13:1-5 (ESV)

(1) Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. (2) During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, (3) Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, (4) rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. (5) Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

1) A Renewed Mind

Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)

(1) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Note: A whole passage on relating well with one another is introduced with the concept of worship & renewal

- To have any chance at healthy relationships - we need to grow & change!
- Worship is essential to change, because Jesus is our reference point for healthy relationships!

John 13:6-11 (ESV)

(6) He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” (7) Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” (8) Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” (9) Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” (10) Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” (11) For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

Note: We are all in processes & some still need a full bath (Judas) - Jesus washed everyone's feet!

Renewed Mind - We are being renewed (at least we need to be!) - we should embrace & celebrate our unity

Worship unites imperfect people, therefore we can experience unity even as we are imperfectly changing!

2) A Diverse Body

Romans 12:4-5 (ESV)

(4) For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, (5) so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Note: We have unique differences & yet we are connected! Look at what Jesus says to his motley crew . . .

John 13:34-35 (ESV)

(34) “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (35) By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Note: These are the same guys who were just arguing about who was greatest! (Luke 22:24)

There are differences among us & there always will be!

Some of our differences are related to our need to grow & change, but some are simply a result of the beautiful diversity of God's design . . .

Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV)

(9) After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, (10) and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Celebrate Diversity - We are different - we should embrace & celebrate our diversity

*These 2 things (renewed minds & diverse body) make healthy relationships difficult and also possible!

3) Pillars for healthy relationships (3 this week & more next Sunday)

A) Grace

Romans 12:3 (ESV)

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Note: Only when I understand and receive the Grace given to me, can I then extend that to others

Ephesians 4:29-32 (ESV)

(29) Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (30) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (31) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. (32) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Note: Grace builds up others & co-operates with the mission of the Holy Spirit

B) Humility

Apprehending God's Grace helps us grow in Humility . . .

Romans 12:3, 16 (ESV)

(3) For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. . . (16) Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

Note: Jesus lived this - foot washing was a picture of it, but that was just an extension of his whole life!

Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV)

(5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Note: Pride kills your relationships - Humility kills your pride and gives life to relationships!

C) Love

Walking in Humility is the path to loving well . . .

Romans 12:9-10 (ESV)

(9) Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (10) Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Note: Love - binds this all together!

Love defined: Choosing of someone else's highest good. - Dave Buehring

This means that by nature love is sacrificial - loving God, people, & myself (all 3 are sacrificial)

Mark 12:29-31 (ESV)

(29) Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (30) And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' (31) The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Note: Consider each of these 3 loves . . .

- **Love for God** - our sacrificial spiritual act of worship (Romans 12:1)
- **Love for People** - no greater love than this - that a man lay down his life for his friend (John 15:13)
- **Love for Self** - "self love" of our culture is a false version of this, but there is a healthy version!

Conclusion: As we explore healthy relationships this month - may we grow in our understanding of our need for healthy change, to embrace our differences and learn to walk in grace, humility, & love!

Ephesians 4:15-16 (ESV)

(15) Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, (16) from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.