

Arrows
Friendships
September 21/22, 2019

1 Corinthians 9:26 Therefore I do not run like someone running **aimlessly**; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.

James 4:14 (NIV) What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Ecclesiastes 2:8-11 (NLT) I had everything a man could desire! Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind.

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12 (NLT) I observed yet another example of something meaningless under the sun. This is the case of a man who is all alone, without a child or a brother, yet who works hard to gain as much wealth as he can. But then he asks himself, “**Who am I working for?** It is all so meaningless and depressing. Two people are better off than one, for they can **help each other succeed**. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. **Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm**. But how can one be warm alone? **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.

Key Thought: Sometimes the pursuit of the things we want can destroy the relationships we need.

Key Thought: The Kingdom of God is the Kingdom of Right Relationships.

Right Relationships help you...

- ✓ Reach our potential.

Key Thought: It is not about what we are building; it is about who we are building.

Galatians 5:13-15 (NIV) “Serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.”

Who can I serve?

- ✓ Move in the right direction.

Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

2 Timothy 2:22 (NIV) Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Who can I encourage?

- ✓ Protect us from the enemy.

Judges 18:7 (TLB) So the five men went on to the town of Laish and noticed **how secure everyone felt**. Their manner of life was Phoenician, and they were wealthy. They lived quietly and were unprepared for an attack, for there were no tribes in the area strong enough to try it. They lived a great distance from their relatives in Sidon, and had little or no contact with the nearby villages.

Who can I protect?

4 relationship decisions we should make:

1. To nurture my important relationships.

Colossians 2:19 ...the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

2. To restore my broken relationships.

Romans 12:17-18 Do not repay anyone evil for evil...If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

3. To evaluate and if necessary withdraw from any harmful relationships.

Proverbs 27:19 GN A mirror reflects a man's face but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

4. To initiate some meaningful relationships.

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

What are 3 meaningful relationships you should have in your life?

- ✓ Relationship with a church.
- ✓ Relationship with a life group and a team.
- ✓ Relationship with God.

Walk Away: I have decided to maintain and initiate healthy right relationships.