

Relationships Series – Part 2

Relating to Peers

Pastor Brian Coles

9.2.18

Today we are continuing our three-part series called “Relationships”. Our main objective is to identify habits for building Godly relationships. Ideally, I hope is that as a community we would continue the process of letting the Holy Spirit illuminate specific habits in our lives that he is directing us in to build Godly relationships.

Last week we identified 4 habits for relating to authority:

- **Submit to God’s authority in every area of your life**
- **Honor and submit to earthly authority**
- **Regularly communicate your loyalty and support of your leader**
- **Make it better**

The quality and the trajectory of your life can be irreducible measured by two things: Your relationships and your habits.

Today we are going to talk about peer relationships. These are co-workers, friends, siblings, teammates. So, what does the bible say about those relationships?

John 17:20-22

²⁰“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—

Jesus’ prayer in that their oneness would be identical to the oneness found in the trinity. Simon the zealot and Matthew the tax collector. These people were nothing like each other. And yet Jesus prays that in him they would be one.

Acts 2:42

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

In the church you are going to find people who do not know how to be good friends, you will find selfish, unkind, offensive people who will hurt you with their words and actions. Those are the facts.

But you will also find in my experience the most authentic, loving, safe, empowering and supportive relationship on the planet. You will enjoy a unity and a oneness that is infused with the blessing of God and the presents of his spirit.

Friendships are something that you make. They don't just happen.

So, what are some habits we can adopt to build Godly relationships?

1.) Building godly peer relationships requires trust.

- Ask yourself: "Am I trustworthy?"
- Yes be yes and no be no. Parenting threats; if you mean it when you say no, they will know that you mean it when you say you love them.
- Follow through.
- Reliable.
- Dependable.
- I'm not the guy who was late. I'm the guy who tried to be on time.
- We tend to judge ourselves by our intentions and judge others by their actions.

2.) Building godly peer relationship requires handling conflict biblically:

Christians must become students of conflict. If our goal is to live in unity and oneness we must understand the things that destroy unity and oneness and in most cases that is conflict and disagreement.

The Peace Maker Ken Sande

"As people reconciled to God by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we believe that we are called to respond to conflict in a way that is remarkably different from the way the world deals with conflict."

1. Glorify God: Instead of focusing on our own desires or dwelling on what others may do, we will rejoice in the Lord and bring him praise by depending on his forgiveness, wisdom, power, and love, as we seek to faithfully obey his commands and maintain a loving, merciful, and forgiving attitude.
2. Get the Log out of your own eye: Instead of blaming others for a conflict or resisting correction, we will trust in God's mercy and take responsibility for our own contribution to conflicts—confessing our sins to those we have wronged, asking God to help us change any attitudes and habits that lead to conflict, and seeking to repair any harm we have caused.
3. Gently restore: Instead of pretending that conflict doesn't exist or talking about others behind their backs, we will overlook minor offenses or will talk personally and graciously with those whose offenses seem too serious to overlook.
4. Go and be reconciled: Actively pursue genuine peace.

Quick to listen slow to speak.

James 1:19-20

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Steven Covey and Habits of Highly Successful people:

- Seek first to understand before being understood.
- Think win-win.

- Craig Groshel thing of a third way.
- Speak the truth in love: I just say it like it is, I'm just telling the truth.

Ephesians 4:15-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

3.) Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth.

You're going to start to hear a theme here on the Christians' use of their words. The bible says the tongue might be small, but it is as powerful to the body as a rudder is to a ship.

Ephesians 4:29

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

4.) Building godly peer relationships requires us to build others up.

Ephesians 4:29

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

