

FORWARD TO FREEDOM

GETTING RELATIONSHIPS RIGHT

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Before God we are responsible for our own character & the needs of others
Romans 14:4; Philippians 2:3-5

- ❶ WHAT _____ DO I HAVE TO _____ FROM ANOTHER PERSON?

PRINCIPLE #1: The seeds of destruction are sown when the _____ of any group, family or person are emphasized over _____. (Colossians 3:3)

- ❷ IN WHAT WAYS SHOULD WE OR SHOULD WE NOT BE THE _____ OF ANOTHER PERSON?

PRINCIPLE #2: When you seek to play the role of the Holy Spirit in another person's life, you will _____ that person's _____ with God onto _____!

- ❸ HOW SHOULD WE RELATE TO ANOTHER PERSON IN REFERENCE TO THEIR _____? _____? HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO ACCEPTANCE? JUDGMENT? DISCIPLINE?

- A. Judgment is a matter of _____
- B. Discipline is a matter of _____
- C. The difference between punishment & discipline (2 Thessalonians 1:8; Hebrews 12:5-11)

- ❹ SHOULD WE BE _____? (1 Peter 21-23; Proverbs 15:1)
A. If you're _____, you don't have a _____
B. If you're _____, you don't need one

- ❺ SHOULD THE AUTHORITY FIGURE BE _____?
John 13:35; 1 Thess. 2:7-8,11-12

- ❻ SHOULD WE EXPRESS OUR _____? HOW?

- ❼ IN ANY _____ THERE ARE THINGS WE ALL _____ WHAT ARE THEY? (Luke 6:31)

- ▶ Assignment: _____ someone an _____ today!



Prayer

Begin your time together by praising God for making us relational beings and for giving us the special people in our life who help teach us lessons and bring us joy.

My Story

What is your favorite kind of compliment? Explain.

Digging Deep

1) Do you think more often about the people in your life that bring you frustration or those that bring you joy? Explain.

2) **Read Philippians 2:3-7.** Who in your life does this humble mindset remind you of? Would others consider you to be this type of person? Name one specific way you can imitate Christ's humility this coming week in your current relationships.

3) How do you like others to treat you? Do you get upset when people don't reach that standard? Why or why not?

4) **Read Ephesians 5:24-33.** What are the responsibilities and rights specifically mentioned or implied for each spouse in the marriage relationship? In order to keep the relationship healthy, why is it important for each spouse to focus on his or her own responsibilities rather than demanding his or her own rights? How does **Philippians 2:3-7** apply?

Digging Deeper

5) Explain how **judging** is an "issue of character" while **discipline** is an "issue of observed behavior." Share a real-life example that illustrates this difference.

6) **Read Hebrews 12:5-11.** How do you think believers should respond to God when we are disciplined? What benefits does discipline bring?

7) **Read 1 Peter 2:21-23.** What does this passage say about becoming defensive? How does our defensive nature inhibit us from growing or maintaining healthy relationships? Share any lessons you have learned in this area.

8) How can each of the following "one-anothers" of the New Testament enhance your relationships if learned and applied?

Romans 12:10

Colossians 3:13

Hebrews 10:24-25

James 5:16

Ephesians 4:2

9) *"How do you know if a person needs encouragement? If they are breathing."* Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-fil-A. What is one thing you can do this week to show love and encouragement to someone in your life who needs it?

Taking it Home

10) In our relationships we all need love, acceptance, affirmation and a sense of worth. What can you do this week to show one or more of these to a fellow Christian? Write your plan below.

What is your main take-away from this lesson?

Praying Together

Pray with one another that we see each of the people in our life as a gift from God, and that we may be equipped to love and steward those around us well. Let us share the gospel with joy and kindness in every conversation we have this week.