

How to Get Unstuck: Reaching Across Relational Boundaries

AUGUST 23, 2020

I. INTRO TO RELATIONAL BOUNDARIES

1 Timothy 1:15-16 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His immense patience as an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life.

A. Relational boundaries have a way of becoming relational barriers.

B. Relational barriers keep us from growing in spiritual maturity.

- God calls every one of us to be people who reach across relational boundaries and welcome others into His family.
- The Bible calls this “making disciples.”
- **Matthew 28:19-20** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

II. THREE CIRCLES OF RELATIONSHIPS

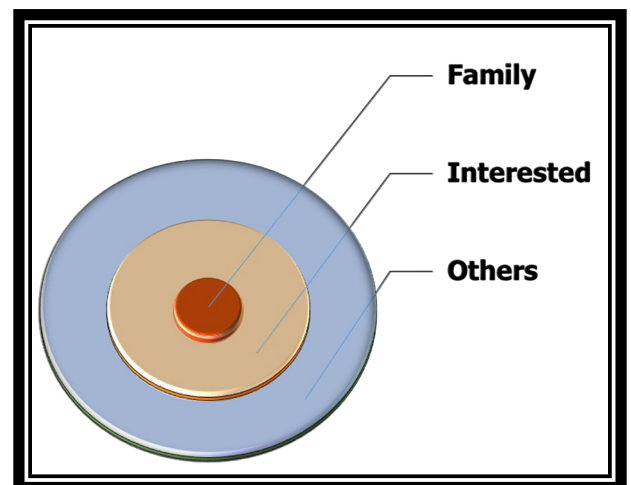
A. The outermost circle is called Others.

- The Others circle of relationship is a place of disconnection or a place of misplaced connections.

B. The middle circle is called Interested.

- The Interested circle of relationship is a place of searching.

C. The inner circle is called Family.



1. The Family circle of relationship is a place of meaning, belonging, and love.

2. The Bible describes the circle of Family as the people who have committed their lives to God by trusting in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household,

- God is calling you and me to be the ones to reach across those relational barriers and welcome people into His family.
- When we respond to the call to help others cross those relational boundaries from Others to Interested to Family, we find that we also get unstuck in our own walk with God.

III. TWO EXAMPLES OF REACHING ACROSS RELATIONAL BOUNDARIES

A. *Rahab – Joshua 2 and 6*

- Rahab, once an outsider and in the Others circle, moved from outsider to Interested to Family member because she was open, and Joshua's friends were willing to reach across the relational boundaries.

Joshua 6:25 But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

B. *Saul – Acts 9*

1. The Bible shows us that you can be a Christian and still be on the outside looking in.
2. After his Damascus road experience, Saul was now a Christian but from the perspective of other Christians, he was still an outsider.

Acts 9:11-12 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

- Ananias reached across the relational boundary and Saul received his sight and began his ministry work.

Acts 9:26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.

- Barnabas reached across the relational boundaries and put his own reputation on the line to see that Saul could find his new family.

C. *Who has God placed in your world for you to reach out to this week?*