

## The Big 10: #2 “The Big 10 Relationships”

### **Announcements:**

- Sign up for Services. We will continue to use a “reservation” policy until we are not limited to gathering sizes. (who knows when that will be)
- Fellowship Hall is a great option to use a “cry” room if you need during services. We are live streaming the whole service to that room
- Re-entry plans...June 14-July 5th...July 12-Aug 2....August 9+....
- Where to stream? Facebook has given us issues, but it is just a Facebook issue. If you stream from our website or the App, there have been no issues. We understand that you do not get to engage in the chat aspect of Facebook, but you actually watch the whole thing!

### **Pre-Questions:**

- Why do you think Relationships are so important?
- Any examples of how relationships have been good for/to you?
- How have your relationships changed during this Pandemic?
- What is hard about relationships?
- What is the most desirable quality of a relationship to you?

### **Reading 1:**

#### ***1 Corinthians 13 : 4-8***

**<sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;[a] <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup>Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.**

- It is easy to read these words and say “yes, these are all true”. So why is it so hard to ACTUALLY live this way sometimes?
- Why is love so important?
- What does it mean for Love to be Kind? What does that look like?

## **Reading 2:**

### **Galatians 5:22-23**

**<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**

- Once again, we read about Love, Patience, and Kindness. Why do you think these are rescuing words/themes of scripture?
- What does this say about what our relationships **should** look like?
- In the “heat of the moment” has anyone ever stopped and used these words to realign their behavior / words / thoughts?

**Where else do we see the importance of relationships in scripture?**

## **Reading 3:**

### **Acts 16:12-15**

**<sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the[a] district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. <sup>13</sup>And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. <sup>14</sup>One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.**

### **Acts 16:40**

**<sup>40</sup>So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.**

### **Philippians 1:1-10**

**<sup>1</sup>Paul and Timothy, servants[a] of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers[b] and deacons:[c] <sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace,[d] both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...**

### **Closing thoughts:**

This is just one of the many, many, many examples of how Paul has formed and maintained relationships. Much of the time Paul spent in his many imprisonments was used to encourage and help people he had formed relationships with. That is where he wrote many of the books he wrote!

Reading about Paul brings a few questions to my mind....

- How can I better use my time to “focus” on my relationships?
- What relationships am I not “maintaining” very well?
- If Paul could do all/most of this in Prison, what can I do out of Prison?