## **Relationship Status**

February 11, 2024

## Associate & Student Pastor Matt Willingham

<u>James 1:19-21</u> "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. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you."

## **Biblical Basis For Relationships**

- 1. God is the FOUNDATION of all relationships.
- 2. We were <u>CREATED</u> for relationships.
- 3. Relationships are the BRIDGE of the gospel.

## **Three Ways To Maintain Healthy Relationships**

- 1. Be quick to LISTEN.
  - Listening takes time, <u>WILLINGNESS</u>, and patience.
  - Misunderstandings, misinterpretations, and misconceptions happen because people do not actively <u>LISTEN</u> to one another.
- 2. Be slow to SPEAK.
  - Slow to <u>SPEAK</u> means that we speak with humility and <u>PATIENCE</u>.
    Ecclesiastes 9:17 Solomon says, "The words of the wise are heard in quiet, more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools."
- 3. Be slow to become ANGRY.
  - A quick-tempered man does foolish things... (Proverbs 14:17)
  - A quick-tempered man displays folly... (Proverbs 14:29)
  - A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension... (Proverbs 15:18)
    - James 1:22-24 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do."
- 1. Relationships will often make us GIVE more than we RECEIVE.
- Relationships will require some EFFORT.
- 3. God <u>CARES</u> about our relationships.