

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: Faith IRL
Message: Relationships Are Messy
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: July 23, 2023

All of us have experienced relationships that have become difficult, estranged, and broken. When this happens, it is an opportunity to exercise and strengthen our faith. Remember, God calls each of us who follow Him to love not only our neighbor but even our enemy (Matthew 5:43-44).

Think about your relationships today – family, friends, co-workers, classmates, neighbors, church, etc. Are any of them broken, cold, antagonistic...messy?

If so, pick one and prayerfully walk through the following. (If you don't have any problem friendships, think about someone you know that does. What you see here can help you help them.)

What could you do to pursue reconciliation? (If the situation carries any physical danger, ask a trusted and wise Christian friend to help you navigate.)

Is there something you need to ask their forgiveness for? (Matthew 5:23)

Is there something you need to forgive them for? (Matthew 6:12-15)

If you aren't sure what has caused the distance or perceived brokenness, you can meet with them and simply ask, "I have sensed things aren't good between us. Is there anything I have done to offend you?"

However they respond, choose not to react defensively. If they bring up something you disagree with, listen. If they deny anything is wrong, reassure them you really want to know.

Ask God to reveal what needs to come to light and leave room for Him to work. Pressuring them will not help.

Determine to pray about the relationship and ask God to work in your friend's life, as well as your own. Resist the temptation to get bitter, defensive, or isolate yourself from others. Leave the situation in God's hands and keep following Him without holding back.

*If you feel stuck or are struggling, ask your Small Group leader or a trusted Christian friend to help you process.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NASB – New American Standard Bible
NLT – New Living Translation

MESSAGE NOTES



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³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

John 13:34–35 (NLT)

God has designed us to grow in our faith together, and in the process show the world what He can do!

Relationships get messy because of people like you and me.

How we handle the messes matters – and has a huge impact on the quality of our faith.

Where no oxen are, the manger is clean, but much increase comes by the strength of the ox.
Proverbs 14:4 (NASB)

God uses relational messes to:

Challenge

Humble

Teach

Correct

Build

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone... Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Romans 12:17–18, 21 (NLT)