

Building Flock Relationships

September 8, 2013

Scene Setting Points:

- What does the Bible say about treating one another, showing intimacy, trust and authenticity to develop deep lasting relationships?
- Have we opened up enough and given ourselves away for others in a relationship?
- Friendships can often be superficial and noncommittal
- Godly characteristics are required for intimate relationships
- God emphasizes the importance of progressing towards intimate relationship

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Proverbs 15:22

Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

Romans 12:9-10

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Matthew 6:14-15

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses

Proverbs 18:24

There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 27:9-10

The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense. Never abandon a friend--either yours or your father's. When disaster strikes, you won't have to ask your brother for assistance. It's better to go to a neighbor than to a brother who lives far away.

Hebrews 10:24-25

let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.

Proverbs 13:20

He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Group Exercise 1 – Growing Our Flock Friendships

- Break into Family groups (One Shuler and One Wheeler Family)
- Discussion suggestions:
 - Personal history and who you are
 - Family members
 - Salvation Experience
 - What you like and dislike
 - Favorite foods, teams, activities, hobbies

GROUP Activity 2 (Care Groups) – Godly Characteristics Required for Right Relationships:

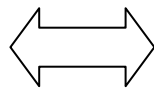
1. Compare and contrast the character traits of our worldly culture verses those driven by the Spirit
2. How does this influence our ability to have deep Godly relationships?

Godly Characteristics - Galatians 5:22-25

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. 23 Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

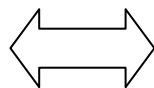
Worldly Cultural Training

Protect your self
Critical
Autonomous
Guarded
Self sufficient
General Acceptance of All Standards
Superficial
Self Centered
Proud
Aggressive
Do it my way
Do what feels good
Receive
Sign of weakness showing emotions
Situational Truths



Godly Characteristic's

Look out for others
Encouragement
Reliant on Others
Trust
Dependant
Correction for Actions
Intimate
Love Other's as yourself
Humble
Passive
Empathy
Self Control
Give Away
Emotional and Open
Honest



Key Lessons Learned:

- Our character traits form the basis for our relationships in life, Are you overly influenced by the world around us?
- God's plan for our lives is to live by the fruits of the Spirit
- Spiritually based relationships increasing calls on you to give away your life to others and open your innermost self

GROUP Activity 3 (Care Groups) – Relationship Comparison:

1. What have you found is required to develop deeper relationships?
2. How does Gods character traits contrast with different levels of relationships?
3. What level of relationship does God desire for our relationships?



Key Lessons Learned:

- We will not have the same level of friendships
- Must give yourself away to develop deep intimate relationships
- Relationships are not made overnight and require time, nurturing and dedication