

Relationship Opportunities

June 12, 2016 · AM · <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/2016/relationship-opportunities-1/>

The Importance

- A. Our religion has two commandments, love of God and love of others (Matt 22:36-40).
- B. The Ten Commandments are divided into two tables – Godward (4) and manward (6).
- C. An infraction as small as partiality toward the rich makes you guilty of all (Ja 2:1-13).
- D. Remember how the epistles are divided, with Romans and Ephesians great examples.
- E. The 915 verses of Proverbs can be divided into those about God and those about men.
- F. This topic fits very well recent emphasis on three-part GOS living (I Cor 10:31-33).
- G. This topic fits well with a lesson of Matthew 25:31-46 last week and works of sheep.
- H. This topic fits well recent preaching from Proverbs 22:11 and exploration of epitaphs.
 - I. This topic fits well past preaching on *bitterness, love is the greatest, one another, etc.*
- J. This topic fits well recent preaching about *soul winning, tree of life, evangelism, etc.*
- K. Recent preaching on marriage also reflects God's emphasis on perfect relationships.
- L. Much of my life is worrying, praying, and exhorting about relationship problems.
- M. Worship is ruined by offended relationships; fix it (Mat 5:21-26; I Pet 3:7; Mal 2:13).
- N. It does not mean very much that you believe the truth, so do devils and many in hell.
- O. By this topic we glorify God, adorn gospel, defend truth, show grace, help others, etc.
- P. Never forget the identifying character of John Baptist's ministry (Mal 4:5-6; Lu 1:17).
- Q. Remember a prime purpose for assembling (Heb 3:12-13; 10:23-25; Acts 2:41-47).
- R. Remember the Holy Spirit's analogy of a human body to describe interactive parts.
- S. A church, like a body ... think Olympics ... needs all parts/joints working (Eph 4:16).
- T. If the Bible is true, righteousness in all other areas is vanity, if relationships are poor.
- U. This topic is, "Thus saith the LORD"; you cannot allow a relationship any other way.

The Opportunity

- A. Each day and person is an opportunity, in and out of church (Gal 6:10; I Thess 5:15).
- B. This subject cannot and should not intimidate any, but rather excite them (Phil 4:13).
- C. The great proof of Christianity is not spouting doctrine but loving others (John 13:35).
- D. You can be glorious by deferring any animosity and passing over offences (Pr 19:11).
- E. It is all about winning ... souls (Pr 11:30) ... favor (Pr 22:1) ... friends (Pr 18:24).
- F. You get to be Jonathan going into the wood to strengthen David's hand (I Sam 23:16).

- G. Solomon gave 22k oxen; you do not have even one; you can give 23k above a check!
- H. How can we be like Jesus Christ without giving ourselves for others (Matt 20:25-28)?
 - I. We are God's children by love, goodness, pity (Matt 5:45; Acts 14:17; Ps 103:13-14).
- J. The glory you can add to Jesus Christ, His gospel, His church, and His word is great.
- K. Failures or frowardness by others give an opportunity you would not otherwise have.
- L. Do not let spouses, children, parents, etc., become too familiar ... pursue their souls.
- M. Real love pursues and helps another person to be perfect before Jesus at His coming.

Who Is My Neighbor?

- A. A scorner asked the question; Jesus answered perfectly with an enemy (Lu 10:25-37).
- B. True children of God love and serve enemies like their Father does His (Mat 5:43-48).
- C. Everyone you know and meet in God's providence is Jew, Gentile, or church of God!
- D. God chose each member of this church for you (I Cor 12:18). Respond accordingly!
- E. God chose every person in your life, except your spouse sort of; maximize marriage.
- F. Avoid exceptions – *fools, scorners, antichrists* – but trust providence if God arranges a chance meeting (Ps 101:3-8; 139:21-22; Matt 7:6; Rom 16:17-18; I John 5:16).

The Means

- A. You start at home by desiring the best for others and praying for them over yourself.
- B. Relationships are giving ... all of them ... so repudiate all “what will I get” ideas.
- C. Thinking serving will deny you is deceit and heresy, if you believe Jesus (Acts 20:35).
- D. Much of it is a mindset ... JOY ... always thinking of God and others before yourself.
- E. Never think about what you can, should, or did not get from others, for you are last.
- F. Learn to be proactive ... not reactive ... using plans and initiative to go after others.
- G. Teach children to engage and serve others at every assembly with advance planning.
- H. Gifts in secret overcome wrath ... believe it ... do it (Prov 21:14; 17:8; 18:16; 19:6).
 - I. Faults, sins by others in a relationship do not change or end your duties toward them.
- J. You have all the power and strength you need to do this well (Phil 4:13; II Pet 1:1-4).
- K. It has absolutely nothing to do with a costly or fancy meal; serve hotdogs and soda.
- L. Forgiveness from the heart is essential; nothing less is acceptable (Matthew 18:34-35).
- M. If in authority – husband, parent, boss – you are Rehoboam without mercy (Pr 28:16).
- N. Obedience and honor are not the same, and you may owe both; do not confuse them.
- O. Apologies are not a sign of weakness but rather of strength when done appropriately.

The Challenge

- A. Learn to hate every feeling like pride, bitterness, selfishness, self-righteousness, etc.

- B. Your fear or neglect of this topic by temperament, habit, hatred, or slothfulness is sin.
- C. Ideas from examples, experiences, feelings, thoughts, or conscience are sinfully vain.
- D. It is my job and your job to hate, repudiate, and reject any idea contrary to the Bible.
- E. Get over yourself; you don't matter; max preservation and prosperity by obeying God.
- F. Most every problem in relationships may be traced back to selfishness in some form.
- G. Enemies bring with them a temptation to contempt due to past or existing conflict.
- H. Close relatives bring with them a temptation to contempt by foolish, sinful familiarity.
 - I. Unresolved offences are poison, unless you are glorious; they easily turn to bitterness.
- J. Prioritize your relationships ... parents over friends ... spouse over children ... etc.
- K. Instead of dreading a public gathering, grow up and embrace the opportunity to give.
- L. Never attend any gathering with thoughts of getting ... but get excited about giving.
- M. True sincerity and wisdom take reproof and change; the self-righteous do not change.
- N. Now is the only time to obey God's word; make haste to keep His rules (Ps 119:60).
- O. Compromise is rebellion, just like Saul sparing Agag, no matter your vain reasoning.

For Further Study:

- A. PowerPoint: [Three Basic Rules for Living](#).
- B. Sermon Outline: [Righteous Relationships](#).
- C. Sermon diagram ... [Relationships – Chart](#).
- D. Sermon Outline: [Love Is the Greatest](#).
- E. Sermon Outline: [Love of a Soul](#).
- F. PowerPoint: [The Worst Sin](#).
- G. Proverb Topical Category: [Relationships](#).
- H. Proverb Commentary: [Proverbs 22:1](#) .
 - I. Sermon Outline: [Becoming Sound Doctrine](#).
- J. Sermon Outline: [One Another Duties](#).