

Life Matters More When We Honor God In All Our Relationships!

Life Matters More When We Honor God! Pt.2

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, John 13:34-35, Mark 2:15-17

January 15, 2017

To Honor God In Our Relationships, We Need To:

1. Establish A Core Of Strong FRIENDSHIPS

Ecclesiastes 4:9, Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. ¹¹Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹²Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Luke 6:31, Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Proverbs 13:20, Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 17:17, A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Proverbs 22:24, Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, ²⁵or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared.

Proverbs 27:5, Better is open rebuke than hidden love. ⁶Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Proverbs 27:17, As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

2. Develop Solid Loving Relationships With Other BELIEVERS

John 13:34, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”

Romans 15:7, Accept one another; then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

1 Thessalonians 4:9, Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.

3. Create Gospel-Focused Friendships With UNBELIEVERS

Mark 2:15, While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with Him and His disciples, for there were many who followed Him. ¹⁶When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw Him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked His disciples: “Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

- The Bible makes a clear distinction between friendship with the world (James 4:4), and friendship with unbelievers. Too many Christians confuse the two and think being friends with unbelievers is the same as being

friends with the world; it's not! Paul questioned whether Christians could share the Gospel with unbelievers while avoiding them (1 Corinthians 5:9-10). Jesus was frequently accused of being friends with sinners. He did this because their need for the Gospel was so great, and if we are to be like Christ, we must develop relationships with unbelievers in order to spread the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 5:9, *I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; ¹⁰I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.*

1 Corinthians 9:22, *...I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

Cottonwood Creek Challenge:

- Read the Pastor's daily blog on 'Honoring God With Our Friendships.'
- If you have questions about 'Honoring God' and would like for the Pastor to answer them, text "QUESTIONS" to 77978 and ask your question.
- Make a list of core friends, extended friends and unbelievers you would like to reach with the Gospel!
- Tuesday's Men's Bible Study will start a new series entitled, 'Becoming A Man God Uses.' It will begin on Tuesday, January 17 at 6:00a in room A234.