

## Rightly Related – 3

One of the greatest gifts God has given us is people

*Great relationships are a sign of a flourishing life but they don't come by chance*

Sadly, we live in a world filled with broken relationships

- Broken marriages
- Failed friendships
- Family fall-outs
- Bitter business partnerships

*The principles that you sow into a relationship will determine what you reap*

The Bible speaks about marriage, friendship, parenting, employer relations, how to treat others and have a great relationship with God

**John 15:13–15 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Relationships are fostered by sacrifice, obedience to Christ and open, honest communication

### Colossians 3:18–4:6 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

<sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

<sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

<sup>22</sup> Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. <sup>23</sup> And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. <sup>25</sup> But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

**4** Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. <sup>2</sup> Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; <sup>3</sup> meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, <sup>4</sup> that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. <sup>5</sup> Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

## The Power of Partnership

### Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (NLT)

<sup>9</sup> Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. <sup>10</sup> If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. <sup>11</sup> Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? <sup>12</sup> A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

### Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NLT)

<sup>9</sup> Two people are better off than one

Don't be fooled into thinking you have the capacity to achieve your best on your own

A training partner at the gym is a great asset when you think you've reached your limit

Having a friend to your destiny that can encourage you to reach your dream will enrich your life

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”  
– Helen Keller

The desire to have intimate relationships is deep within every human being

Intimate means to be closely acquainted and familiar with someone else – *Intimacy (into me see)*

Within the right perimeters this can be a great blessing  
However because many people don't deal with the pain and scars of past experiences they keep sabotaging their present and future relationships

Many people build walls to protect themselves and prevent others from becoming too close to them

If you have been hurt or betrayed by someone, don't allow that to prevent you from building good relationships in the future

**Ecclesiastes 4:9**

For they can help each other succeed.

Working together will help you have a greater impact

The reward of good partnerships and relationships is that they make us more effective and fruitful

Besides achieving more together you have the assistance and support when you need it

**Ecclesiastes 4:10 (NLT)**

<sup>10</sup> If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.

**Romans 12:15 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup> Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.

Close intimate relationships will carry you through the bad times and celebrate the good times with you

**Ecclesiastes 4:11 (NLT)**

<sup>11</sup> Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone?

When you have someone who stands with you through thick and thin will add warmth and security to your life

Many people looking for intimacy will substitute sex  
Sex outside of God's perimeters can cause hurt and pain

Many extra-marital affairs aren't as much about lust as they are about trying to fill that cold, empty void that comes from the lack of intimacy

**Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer.

- The power of two also brings strength and protection
- When two stand together it is a much more powerful force

**Leviticus 26:8 (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup> Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand!

**Matthew 18:19 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup> “I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you.

There is great power in agreement

A breakdown in a marriage, a friendship or a team is often started by a wedge provided by a third party who introduces a small seed of doubt

Entertaining thoughts and imagining you should be somewhere else can take you down a devastating path

**1 Peter 3:7 (NLT)**

<sup>7</sup> In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

**Psalms 133:1, 3 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> How wonderful and pleasant it is  
when brothers live together in harmony!  
<sup>3</sup> Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount  
Hermon  
that falls on the mountains of Zion.  
And there the LORD has pronounced his blessing,  
even life everlasting.

### Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)

Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Every partnership has three strands...

- You
- Those in partnership with you
- Common interest, vision or goal

When you have all three elements you have a strong union  
Breakdowns occur when any of the three doesn't exist

- The third part is what determines the impact the union will make
- This is very important because it will determine whether or not the relationship will be healthy or unhealthy
- When the connection is positive it will have a positive impact
- If it is bitter and negative it will have a negative impact

Pilate and Herod had previously been at odds with one another – persecuting Jesus became their common thread

### Luke 23:12 (NLT)

<sup>12</sup> (Herod and Pilate, who had been enemies before, became friends that day.)

The most powerful cord is love – the Bible says love never fails

### Ephesians 4:3 (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

### Acts 2:1–3 (NLT)

#### *The Holy Spirit Comes*

On the day of Pentecost\* all the believers were meeting together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.

### Acts 2:42–47 (NLT)

#### *The Believers Form a Community*

<sup>42</sup> All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper\*), and to prayer.

<sup>43</sup> A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

<sup>44</sup> And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup> They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

<sup>46</sup> They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity\*—<sup>47</sup> all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.