

Rightly Related – 4

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)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ 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

No Slide: Colossians 3:18–4:6 (NKJV)

- ¹⁸ Wives, submit to your own husbands
¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.
²⁰ Children, obey your parents
²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children
²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters
²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord

⁴ Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair.
² Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. ⁶ 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

No Slide: Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (NLT)

Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NLT)

- ⁹ Two people are better off than one for they can help each other succeed.
- 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

Ecclesiastes 4:10 – 12 (NLT)

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

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

¹² A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer

- When you have someone who stands with you through thick and thin will add warmth and security to your life
- The power of two also brings strength and protection
- When two stand together it is a much more powerful force

Matthew 18:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ “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.

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

1 Peter 3:7 (NLT)

⁷ 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.

Psalm 133:1, 3 (NLT)

¹ How wonderful and pleasant it is
when brothers live together in harmony!
³ 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)

¹² (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)

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

Acts 2:42–47 (NLT)

The Believers Form a Community

⁴² 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.

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

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

⁴⁶ 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*—⁴⁷ 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.

Partnering for success

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters,* by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

A partnership is an alliance of unified force
Partners share the risk as well as the blessings
In successful partnerships things are not split in two they are multiplied

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

To enjoy the blessings of partnership you have to put something in to get something out

Everybody wants an immediate benefit yet few are prepared for the hard work and cost to get there

- This is true for Business, Marriage and the Church
- Your level of investment determines your level of benefit

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NLT)

⁶ Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

Shared Equality

2 Corinthians 8:13 (NLT)

¹³ Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. ¹

- We are equal in Gods eyes
- We are unique and have different roles yet all of us are equally important
- Great partnerships are based on everyone doing their share

If all you are interested in is how things affect you, you can not experience the true spirit of partnership

It's about shared commitment

Ruth 1:16 (NLT)

¹⁶.... Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

Proverbs 20:6 (NLT)

⁶ Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable?

The majority of people will look out for their own interests but a faithful person will have a sense of commitment that will go way beyond themselves

Ruth 1:16–17 (NLT)

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. ¹⁷ Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!”

- True commitment involves faithfulness towards the interests of your partner
- This is especially true in marriage
- Till death do us part still means something!
- It’s the hallmark of true commitment

Great partnerships are built around shared purpose

2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began

- Great partnerships have to be about more than a goal or project
- Goals and projects change
- Our ultimate purpose is something that is God ordained
- Every one of us is alive for a specific purpose and cause
- When you lose your sense of purpose you lose your sense of partnership as well

Examine the cords that are tying your closest partnerships
Vision brings unity and unity brings reward