

Rightly Related – 5

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)

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

Every partnership has three strands...

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

Ephesians 4:3 (NLT)

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

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** – ROI

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
- When we don't do our share the relationship is out of balance
- It's not 50/50 it's 100/100

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

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (NLT)

⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸ To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice*; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge.* ⁹ The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰ He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages,* while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹ It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

1 Corinthians 12:29–31, 13:4–7 (NLT)

²⁹ Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? ³⁰ Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not! ³¹ So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts.

But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all.

Love Is the Greatest

⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.