

Rightly Related – 6

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.

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.

- 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

It's about shared commitment

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

Genesis 2:22–24 (NLT)

²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. ²³ “At last!” the man exclaimed.

“This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken from ‘man.’ ” ²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

...and the two are united into one.

- Trish and I have been married 27 years
- Our marriage is stronger today than ever
- We have made choices and put forth the effort to build a strong partnership
- We are in this together for good!

Proverbs 18:22 (NLT)

²² The man who finds a wife finds a treasure, and he receives favor from the LORD.

- Marriage is God's idea
- He purposed it for Good
- It is the most intimate relationship you will have with another person
- It is a powerful union – physical and spiritual

Genesis 2:24 (NLT)

²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

- Joined together – attached and connected
- As if connected by glue
- You can't pull on one without hurting the other

Mark 10:9 (NLT)

⁹ let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

We should not try to pull apart something that God has put together

We should not try to join something together that has no future

One of the most significant choices we will make is the person we marry

We need to understand what it means to be joined together

How to choose the right person

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?

Even as a strong marriage will be a blessing a marriage built on the wrong foundation is doomed to struggle and fail

- Don't choose someone based solely on physical attraction
 - Things change
- Don't choose on the rebound
- Don't make a choice to avoid being single at any cost

Three key warning signs

Watch out for spiritual compatibility

- When two lives are pulling in different directions, something has to give
- Sharing the same values, morals and spiritual beliefs is vital to a blessed partnership

Be careful when there is emotional dysfunction

- Don't ignore patterns of extreme behavior
- Depression – hypersensitivity – eating disorders
- A cute smile will not mask an ugly temper
- Emotional problems that aren't dealt with can destroy a marriage

Sexual perversion or confusion

- Sex is a blessing inside of marriage
- Outside of God's perimeters will bring hurt and pain
- Even when a person turns away from past experiences
There needs to be time to renew their thinking
- Change old behaviors to line up with the word of God
- Both partners will reap what is sown
- Use Godly wisdom when it comes to a life-long partnership

Every marriage has its share of twists and turns

Every partnership will have trials and tests

Why do some emerge stronger yet others fall apart?

Three secrets for a strong marriage

Two people who love God

- When you both love God and put Him first you have the ingredient for a strong marriage
- When one is passionate and the other isn't it can make things a lot more difficult

Psalm 84:5 (NLT)

⁵ What joy for those whose strength comes from the LORD

Two people who love the house of God

- Do both parties love "The Church"?
- Are both parties planted?
- It can be a unifying factor

Psalm 84:4 (NLT)

⁴ what joy for those who can live in your house, always singing your praises.

Psalm 92:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Those who are **planted** in the house of the LORD
Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Two people who love each other

- When you love each other you put the other one first
- You are committed to seeing them succeed
- Love and serve one another

1 Corinthians 13:4–6 (NKJV)

⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

Build your marriage day by day

- It's the thoughtful things each day that build your marriage
- It's the little day to day things that have been suppressed for a long period of time that can cause problems in marriage
- The bible gives us simple yet wise counsel that can prevent these issues from sabotaging your relationship

Song of Solomon 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines,
For our vines *have* tender grapes.

Resolve issues quickly

Ephesians 4:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ “*Be angry, and do not sin*”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

- Don't carry around baggage from the past
- Unforgiveness, resentment, hurt and regret
- Left suppressed will begin to rule your life
- You're bottled up anger and unresolved issues will surface
- Don't live it until it destroys your marriage

Speak words of life

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)

²¹ Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

- Words bear fruit both positively and negatively
- You can either build others up or become a lethal weapon of devastation and damage
- Whether spoken over you or by you, words have the power to affect your relationships
- You can mortally wound a marriage or scar a child for life
- Words are like deposits in other people
- What you deposit is what you withdraw

Proverbs 10:21 (NKJV)

²¹ The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of wisdom.

Stay committed to your partner's success

Matthew 20:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

When I met Trish she was shy and without confidence
I have seen her home school our children, sing in front of
hundreds as well as preach and disciple others

- Some people want to keep their partner suppressed and shackled
- Some use scripture out of context to control their spouse
- These actions are fueled by insecurity and resentment
- This will lead to a home full of negativity
- It will hold back the life of your partner as well as your own
- Learn to invest in each other
- Empower one another to become a bigger person
- When we support and encourage each other our marriage and life will flourish and be a blessing to others

Proverbs 31:22–23 (NKJV)

²² She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple. ²³ Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.

- This describes a healthy marriage and a woman who has the support and heart of her husband
- It's more than fine clothing; it is a picture of true wealth and prosperity