

## Rightly Related

One of the greatest gifts God has given us is people  
When God saw that Adam was alone He gave him Eve as a  
wife and companion

### Proverbs 18:22 (NLT)

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

When God saw that the world needed a Savior He gave us  
Jesus

### John 3:16 (NLT)

<sup>16</sup> “For this is how God loved the world: He gave\* his one  
and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not  
perish but have eternal life.

*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*

Many of us take our relationships for granted and only seek help when there is a problem

The truth is if we don't deal with the pain of a bad relationship it has the potential to affect other relationships too

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

### 1 John 1:7–9 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### 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.

One of the hardest things to endure is loneliness  
God does not want us to be lonely

**Genesis 2:18 (NLT)**

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”

Castaway:

*Tom Hanks as a FedEx employee stranded on an uninhabited island after his plane crashes in the South Pacific. The film depicts his attempts to survive on the island using remnants of his plane's cargo, He becomes so desperate for friendship that he paints a face on a volleyball and names it Wilson After being stranded for four years Chuck Noland builds a raft and bravely drifts out to sea to escape his captivity on the island. During a storm he loses Wilson and risks his life to try and rescue a volleyball.*

Clip:

God created each and every one of us to know the blessing of intimacy

Every one of us has the desire and need for companionship

Sadly some people never draw others into their lives

**Proverbs 18:1 (NKJV)**

**18** A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire;  
He rages against all wise judgment.

*When we make a choice to seek our own desire in a relationship we end up isolating ourselves*

This happens when we are looking at relationships for our own gain – instead of contributing to one

- We may need constant approval
- We may want to achieve a certain goal
- When we live this way we make decisions that support our particular pursuits – our agenda
- We tend to gravitate to others with our same weakness – Alcohol, drugs, gossip, etc.
- We should seek out relationships that challenge us and ultimately strengthen us

*We need people who will build us up and take us forward in life – A good friend does just that*

**Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> A man *who has* friends must himself be friendly,  
But there is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother.

Some of our most pleasurable times in life are enjoying a meal with close friends

Friendships are one of the key elements of a blessed life

Thousands would crowd around Jesus to hear Him teach

His twelve companions gathered together with Him in that upper room the night He was betrayed

They shared in His most intimate moments of life

Many people never attract others into their lives because their attitude is more about what they can get rather than what they can give

*They miss out in the blessing of true friendship*

Just as we need to make deposits in a bank before we can make a withdrawal we must invest in our relationships

There are many people who want to be everyone's friend but they never become anyone's true friend because they are unwilling to make a stand

*Instead of giving a friend full support they sit on the fence and try to be everyone's friend – this won't work*

**Proverbs 18:24 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

<sup>24</sup> The man of many friends [a friend of **all the** world] will prove himself a bad friend, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

**John 15:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

*A true friend will stick by you in the good times and the bad*

Jesus demonstrated His love by giving His life for us

He may have been betrayed by Judas and Peter may have denied Him three times, but that didn't sway Him

A friend is someone who you love and from whom you receive love

*The Greek and Latin word for friend is  
– ('philos' and 'amicus')*

### Proverbs 17:17 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> A friend loves at all times,  
And a brother is born for adversity.

Loyalty and love are attributes of true friends

In season and out of season

They are the ones who rejoice with you as well as weep with you

### Romans 12:15, 16 (NLT)

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

<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

- The strength of a good friendship that goes the distance is that it has unconditional love
- They will believe in you no matter what
- In the midst of busybodies or gossip
- They are committed to seeing you meet your potential

A true friend is one who will take you forward and build you up

They are committed to your destiny

**Proverbs 13:20 (NKJV)**

20 He who walks with wise *men* will be wise

Birds of a feather flock together

Like minded people gravitate towards one another

Negativity breeds negativity

*The reality is that the mentality and attitude of those you hang around with will eventually rub off on you*

**Psalms 101:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> I will set nothing wicked before my eyes;  
I hate the work of those who fall away;  
It shall not cling to me.

**Proverbs 27:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> As iron sharpens iron,  
So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Not everyone who appears friendly is a friend

Satan himself is disguised as an angel of light

Just because someone initially makes us comfortable does not mean they are a friend to our destiny in God

*What rubs off on you will affect your future*