

Longing for Relationships

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IBCD Pre-Conference 2016

I. Introduction

- A. The Bible is timeless. Romans 15:4 II Timothy 3:15b-16 Hebrews 4:12 Isaiah 40:8
- B. Legitimate desires can become disordered.
- C. When we crave other things, (even friendships or a great marriage) above God, we will be unfulfilled. Matthew 6:21
- D. The world handles disordered relationships in the wrong way.
 - 1. Drinking masks the inability to converse with others. Proverbs 20:1 Ephesians 5:18
 - 2. "Taking anti-anxiety pills helps me relax when I have to visit my in-laws."
 - 3. Anger/hateful words.
 - 4. Judgmental attitude/criticism.
 - 5. Blaming others for our sins.
- E. Relationships can be ruined by our own sins.
- F. Relationships can be damaged by the sins of others.

II. Family relationships, including with husbands, can become disordered.

- A. Families are composed of sinners. Galatians 5:19-21
 - 1. Jealousy and envy. Genesis 30:1 Genesis 37:18-20 Luke 15:25-30
 - 2. Controlling people.
 - 3. Gossips. Genesis 9:20-27
 - 4. Competitive/prideful people. Genesis 30:15
 - 5. Anger at other things which spills into relationships. Genesis 4:1-8
 - 6. Hurt feelings/sensitive feelings/"touchy".
- B. Family members sin against one another, even as Christians. Galatians 5:17
 - 1. Jealousy and envy. I John 3:15a
 - 2. Reacting to real or imagined slights.
 - 3. Misunderstandings and disagreements.
 - 4. Competitiveness.
 - 5. Gossiping. Proverbs 16:28b
 - 6. Over-sensitivity.

III. Relationships with friends can become disordered.

- A. Friends sin against us. Psalm 55:13-14, 20-21 Philemon 8-20
- B. Sin jeopardizes our relationships with friends. Phil. 4:2-3 Rom. 14 III John 9-10 Prov. 16:28b
- C. We find it hard to make friends.
- D. Friendships fall away. Psalm 41:9 Acts 15:36-41 II Timothy 4:16
- E. We can allow friends to take importance over God.
 - 1. Creating disappointment and unhappiness.
 - 2. Creating demanding and overwhelming relationships.

IV. Are we replacing our longing for people with our longing for God?

- A. We are made to worship God. Deuteronomy 10:12-14, 20ab II Corinthians 5:9 John 17:3
- B. Christians value God and relationship with Him above all others. I Thess. 2:4b Gal. 1:9 II Tim. 4:17
- C. Our sin keeps us from Him. Genesis 3:1-10 I John 2:9, 11
- D. Think carefully about how much we are influenced by others, instead of the Lord.

V. Only God can fulfill our needs.

- A. Marriage is not what the single needs, ultimately. I Corinthians 7:32-35 Matthew 22:30a
- B. Relationship with God, Himself, is what is truly satisfying. Isaiah 55:1-3a
- C. We are blessed with One who truly loves us and cares for us.
 - 1. Our good shepherd. Psalm 23 John 10:11, 14 I Peter 2:25
 - 2. Our older brother. Romans 8:29
 - 3. Cravings for the Lord are like food cravings! He satisfies our longings. Psalm 42:1-2a
Psalm 107:9 Isaiah 58:11 Psalm 34:8-10
- D. All other friends and family will not satisfy. Jeremiah 17:5-8

VI. Christ is the example of the healthiest relationship of all.

- A. He gave Himself for His people. Ephesians 5:1-2 John 15:13
- B. Jesus prayed for those around Him. John 17
- C. He focused on the needs of others. John 13:1-17 Mark 10:45
- D. Jesus understands and cares.
 - 1. His friends deserted Him. Matthew 27:36-45 Isaiah 53:3
 - 2. He is always with us. Hebrews 13:5c
 - 3. He gives us courage. Hebrews 13:6

VII. How can I put my relationship desires in order?

- A. The Bible shows us how to lovingly confront others. Matthew 7:1-5 Matthew 18:15-17 Gal. 6:1
- B. Remember the gospel is the answer. As we live in awareness of what God has done for us, we can live in light of that. I Peter 2:9-10 II Corinthians 5:14a, 15
- C. Apply the gospel.
 - 1. Forgive because we have been forgiven. Ephesians 4:31-32
 - 2. Sacrifice for the sake of others. I John 3:16 I John 3:16
 - 3. Show real love to others. I John 4:11-12 I John 4:11-12 I John 4:19 John 15:12
- D. Stay close to the Savior.
 - 1. Keep Jesus in the “before your thoughts.” Hebrews 12:1-2 I John 1:7
 - 2. We don’t know what the future holds in relationships. Psalm 18:1-3

- E. Remember that you are a great sinner who has been saved. Romans 15:7 Luke 7:47
- F. Show grace.
- G. You have power to follow the Lord because the Holy Spirit enables you. I John 4:13, 15-16 Gal. 5:16-18
- H. Realize that God is sovereign over all things, including the hardships you endure.
 - 1. Joseph didn't get angry or punish his brothers. Genesis 50:16-21
 - 2. God wins! John 16:33
- I. What if I am still having trouble in my relationships?
 - 1. Pray for help. I John 5:14
 - 2. Confess your sins when you recognize them. I John 1:9 Proverbs 28:13
 - 3. Christ's death on the cross applies on a daily basis. I John 2:1b-2a

VIII. Conclusion

I John 5:12 Romans 15:4