

Sunday 1/21/2024 – RELATIONSHIPS

In a world where success has been defined in how many views, follow, likes, and positive engagements we have, why have we lost the ability to gain and maintain our friendships?

We are on week four of our series, entitled the intentional year, where we have been focusing on principles, and habits that are biblically proven to enhance our lives, and draw us closer in our relationship with Christ.

Relationships are unavoidable so what if we were more intentional about the relationships in our lives.

What Do Relationships Look Like For You?

How do we know which relationships to prioritize? What would that even look like?



Circles of Friends – levels of relationships

The small circle in the center represents family, and the next circle usually represents extended family and close friends. another circle is for friends and colleagues, then finally, we have the occasional acquaintances.

It’s impossible to live the right life, when you have the wrong friends.

What relationships in your life do you need to spend less time on?

Proverbs 12:26 - the righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

You see the relationships we need to let go of a much harder to talk about. Often these relationships, feel one-sided, where you’re doing all the work, and these friends don’t seem to care.

Do not let anyone jeopardize God’s will for you.

Matthew 16:21-23 - From that time on Jesus begin to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priest, and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed, and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” He said. “This shall never happen to you!” Jesus turned and said to Peter. “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind, the things of God, but the things of men.”

Be self aware – not self consumed

Psalm 139:23-24 search me, God, and know my heart; trust me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me into the way, everlasting.

Be empathetic - try to see things from their perspective – walk in their shoes - even if you don't agree with it – why do they feel that way. But empathizing with others comes naturally for some of us; we easily feel what they feel. Others may want to emphasize, but have a difficult time, stepping into someone else's situation, especially without a frame of reference.

If that's you, try being curious about someone else's situation. Ask questions that can help you see things from their perspective. Offer a nonjudgmental presence. You might be surprised on how little steps in another's directions will foster a connection.

Differentiation – the ability to have and state my own values and opinions while still remaining connected to others relationally.

What can you do to “show” yourself friendly?

Smile

Speak

Listen

Ask Questions

Make Time