

SERMON OUTLINE

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How to Have Good Relationships

Sep 13, 2009

- I. **What Makes Relationships Challenging?** Ephesians 4:2-3
 - A. Ego Gets in the Way (My Satisfaction) - **Humility, Gentleness**
 - B. "Self" Is Going to get Hurt (Protection) - **Patience, Tolerance**
 - C. Why Seek Good Relationships? Eccl 4:11-12; Proverbs 27:17

- II. **Keys to Good Relationships**
 - A. You Get Right With God Ephesians 4:17-24
 1. The foundation to good relationships: Proverbs 14:12
 2. Guilt will destroy relationships: 1 Peter 3:13, 15-16
 3. God demonstrates a good relationship: 1 John 3:16
 4. The most important: God is first - Matt 10:28-39
 - B. Be Honest with Them Ephesians 4:25
 1. Trust is built on honesty (not perfection) - it is a choice
 2. Love God's approval - John 12:42-43 (don't fear consequ.)
 3. Live in reality (truth = reality) - Ecclesiastes 5:7
 4. Be faithful with little - Luke 16:10 - also with much
 - C. Work for Their Benefit Ephesians 4:28
 1. One-sided relationships wear down - explode
 2. Trust God's provision - Matthew 19:21-22,29
 3. Trust in the good will of others - Luke 6:38 - "They..."
 4. Think stewardship, not ownership - Matt 25:14 - entrust
 - D. Speak Words That Build Them Up Ephesians 4:29
 1. There is good and bad in everybody - on what will we focus?
 2. Walk in their shoes (change perspectives) - Prov 18:17
 3. Think about it - Proverbs 25:11 - a word fitly spoken...
 4. Speak up / Shut up - Proverbs 12:25; 30:32
 - E. Forgive Them Ephesians 4:31-32
 1. No greater relationship builder - because we all make mistakes
 2. Why are we bitter/angry? - selfishness
 3. Realize God's grace toward you - vs. 32
 4. Choose being wronged (no ledger) - 1 Corinth 6:7
 5. Seek growth (can't grow w/o forgiveness) - Eph 5:26-27