



RELATIONSHIPS

Several years ago, there was a popular song that stated “people who need people are the luckiest people in the world.” A significant part our lives is spent in relationship with others (our spouses, our families, neighbors, church family etc). The primary relationships that we should have even above others should be our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ....that being first and then our relationship with others flowing out of that.

One of the goals of incorporating God’s core values into our lives is to help us mature in our Christian walk (which should affect all other parts of our life). Maturity involves moving from a life of dependence (the emphasis is on “you”), to a life of independence (the emphasis is on “I”), and ultimately to a life of interdependence (the emphasis is on “we”).

READ: Matthew 7:1-12

1. In this part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus addresses our attitudes toward others and toward God. What stands out to you initially in this portion of Scripture?

2. What is “the plank in your own eye” that has sometimes kept you from being able to see others clearly?

3. In verses 7-12, the focus shifts to our relationship with God. What central truth about God does Jesus stress here?

4. Psychologists tell us that we often see in others the very faults we have in ourselves. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

5. If Jesus were here by your side (and He really is), what would be one thing that you can tell Him that you would like to change about your relationships?

READ: James 4:1-12

1. James, like Jesus, had some pretty strong things to say about relationships – both with people and with God. Who do you quarrel with the most now and what do you tend to quarrel with that person (or persons) about?

2. According to verses 1-3, what is at the root of fights and quarrels?

3. What is your usual response when your desires are frustrated?

4. How does following verses 7-10 improve our relationship with God?

5. As a response to this “mini study”, what step(s) will you take in the coming weeks to improve your relationships with others and/or your relationship with the Lord Jesus?

Concerning our relationship with God: We are encouraged to pray continuously in confidence because God desires to meet our needs. And the way a good father treats his children (or should treat his children) is how God treats each of us.