

Connect Group Bible Study

Bringing God & People Together



Living Social

The Relational Church

21.07.2013

Open with invitation of the Spirit (prayer/music)

Big Idea: Using these 6 Biblical keys can help improve our relationships.

Background info: All of us want to have healthy relationships in our lives. Sometimes though we can lack the skills to create and maintain them. These 6 Biblical keys, once applied, can help us improve the relationships in our worlds.

Explore:

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits. (Proverbs 18:21 ESV)

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; (James 1:19 ESV)

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. (Ephesians 4:26, 27 ESV)

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:22-33 ESV)

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. (Romans 12:3 ESV)

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, (2 Corinthians 10:5 ESV)

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Apply:

The above six verses provide for us six relational keys that we can use. They speak to us about our words, listening, anger, marriage, having sober judgement of ourselves and our thought life.

Q: Of these six different areas, which do you see as a strength in your relationships. Why?

Q: Of these six different areas, which do you see as a weakness in your relationships. Why?

Q: How can these above verses be applied to your relationships tomorrow?

All about Jesus:

It is always, only, ever about Jesus! Relationships, if they go bad, can cause us damage. Quite often this damage traps us, binds us up, limiting our ability to engage in future relationships.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
(Luke 4:18, 19 ESV)

These words of Jesus' are truth and hope for us all. If you have been hurt in past relationships and feel 'captive', ask Jesus to come and to heal up and set you free in that area.

Further challenge (optional extras for the group):

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. (Proverbs 4:23 NIV)

When we find it hard to engage relationally because of past experience we can use this verse from Proverbs to justify staying clear of relationships.

Q: What does it mean to guard your heart?

Q: Is there a difference between 'isolating' and 'guarding' your heart?

Q: What are some practical ways in which we can guard our hearts without isolating?

Up & Coming Events @ C3 Thirroul: Let us all be praying for, inviting & bringing people

* Guest Speaker Kev Wilcock PM service on July 28, 2013 6:00 pm

* All Leaders Meeting with John Pearce on August 13, 2013 7:00 pm