

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

Transformed in My Relational Health Week of November 29, 2020 A.D.

Relational health is not some abstract concept. Relational health is the primary reason for your existence as a person. The measure of your relational health both with God and with other people will determine the measure of love and joy which you will experience both on earth and in heaven. Let's talk about that in this lesson.

Read Luke 10:25-37

1. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The very best expression of love is doing something helpful or kind for another person in Jesus' name without thought to the cost or consequences to yourself."
2. Does God expect everybody to love everybody? Does God command the followers of Christ to love everybody? Does God equip every follower of Christ with the ability to love everybody? In your opinion, which of the following is more pleasing to Jesus: (a) for you to sit silently beside fellow Christians as we listen to a Sunday morning sermon; or (b) for you to attend a weekly group with 3-8 of your fellow church members? Please explain your answers.

Read Matthew 11:19

3. Was Jesus a "friend of sinners"? If so, why? If not, why not? Does God want you to have friends who are sinners? If so, why? If not, why not? Please explain your answers.
4. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Casual friends are the result of circumstances. Close friends are the result of choices. Followers of Christ should seek and follow God's instructions for choosing or maintaining a friendship."

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10

5. Should a Christian choose to become a "close friend" of a fellow Christian who is lazy? If not, why not? If so, why? Please explain your answers.

Read Proverbs 22:24-25

6. Is this proverb consistent with Jesus' teaching "to love your neighbor"? Is this proverb good advice which should be followed by every Christian? Please explain your answers.

Read I Corinthians 5:9-13

7. Why does Paul write such a harsh command? Is this teaching consistent with the statement that “the church is a hospital for sinners”? Is this teaching consistent with the “grace of God” by which we are saved (see Eph. 2:8)? How would you personally apply verse 11 if you found yourself in that set of circumstances in your church? Please explain your answers and the reasons for your answers. (P.S. Discuss what Paul has written about this incident in 2 Corinthians 2:5-11.)

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-15

8. Should you (as a follower of Christ) choose a non-believer to be (a) one of your closest friends? (b) your spouse? or (c) a business partner? In each instance explain (a) why or why not, (b) what you think God would say, and (c) how your choice will affect your relationship with Jesus and your relationship with your church family?

Read John 15:9-14,17

9. Does Jesus love everybody? Does the love of Jesus ever change? Do all people choose to experience and receive Jesus’ love? Do all followers of Christ choose to remain in Jesus’ love? How does a person “remain” in Jesus’ love? Are you currently “in Jesus’ love”? If not, why not? If so, why? Is the love of Jesus unconditional? Is your choice to remain in Jesus’ love conditional? Please explain your answers.
10. Have you ever sung the song “I am a Friend of God”? According to verse 13, has Jesus “friended” you? According to verse 14, have you “friended” Jesus? Has Jesus “friended” all Christians? Have all Christians “friended” Jesus? Please explain your answers.
11. Do you have any “friends” that are less willing to spend time with you than you are willing to spend time with them? If so, are you the one who usually takes the initiative to schedule time with each other? Are you the one who is more willing to “go the extra mile” and/or “turn the other cheek”? How does that relationship (and your feelings) compare with your relationship with Jesus (and Jesus’ feeling about you)? Please explain your answers.
12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Life is discovering who God is, who we are, and how we relate to God and to each other. Therefore, unless the primary focus of my time, my abilities, and my financial resources is the building of my friendship with God and my friendships with other people, I am wasting the life that God has given to me.”

Consider: Read the quotation in number 12 again. Say that quotation out loud to yourself every day when you wake up and every evening when you go to bed. “You think about that.” Amen.