

Summer Lovin' – Part 10 Deepening Our Relationships

Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. **And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.**’ The second is equally important: ‘**Love your neighbor as yourself.**’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

Mark 12:29-31 (NLT)

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:5 (NIV)

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14 (NIV)

Recap:

I. Prepare for the fight.

- **Pray – Talk to God.**
- **Admit your own need - Ask yourself, “How much of this is my fault?”**
- **Have the right attitude - Win/Win or no deal!**

How to have a good “fight!”

II. Check your emotions.

Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

Proverbs 16:32 (ESV)

- **Timing – Choose the right time and place.**

The right word spoken at the right time is as beautiful as gold apples in a silver bowl. A wise warning to someone who will listen is as valuable as gold earrings or fine gold jewelry.

Proverbs 25:11-12 (NCV)

- **Tone - Watch your volume and expressions.**

A kind answer soothes angry feelings, but harsh words stir them up.

Proverbs 15:1 (CEV)

In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

1 Peter 3:7 (NLT)

III. Make it a fair fight.

*Finally, all of you should be of one mind. **Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing.** That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. **For the Scriptures say, “If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.** The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil.”*

1 Peter 3:8-12 (NLT)

- **Be united in thought.**
- **Be agreeable, be sympathetic.**
- **Be loving.**
- **Be compassionate.**
- **Be humble.**
- **Be holy.**
- **Don't retaliate with insults – No retaliation.**
- **Bless instead – Be a “blesser.”**
- **Keep your tongue from speaking evil – No sharp-tongued sarcasm.**
- **Tell the truth – Be a truth teller.**
- **Go the opposite way of evil, by doing good – Snub evil and cultivate good.**
- **Search for and work to maintain peace – Be a peacemaker with all your worth.**

*Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. **No sharp-tongued sarcasm.** Instead, bless—that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing. Whoever wants to embrace life and see the day fill up with good, Here's what you do: **Say nothing evil or hurtful; Snub evil and cultivate good; run after peace for all you're worth.** God looks on all this with approval, listening and responding well to what he's asked; But he turns his back on those who do evil things.*

1 Peter 3:8-12 (MSG)

Avoiding Weapons of Emotional Destruction:

- Never compare.
- Never condemn.
- Never command.
- Never challenge.
- Never condescend.
- Never contradict.
- Never confuse.

Let me summarize the seven things in one sentence:

- Attack the issue not each other.

The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment will finally have nothing worthwhile...

Proverbs 11:29 (LB)

*The Messiah has made things up between us so that **we're now together on this**, both non-Jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. **He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance**. He repealed the law code that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it hindered more than it helped. Then he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, **a fresh start for everybody**. **Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility.***

Ephesians 2:14-16 (MSG)