

Summer Lovin' – Part 11

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)

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
Romans 12:18 (NIV)

My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself. But if you keep attacking each other like wild animals, you had better watch out or you will destroy yourselves. If you are guided by the Spirit, you won't obey your selfish desires. The Spirit and your desires are enemies of each other. They are always fighting each other and keeping you from doing what you feel you should. But if you obey the Spirit, the Law of Moses has no control over you.
Galatians 5:13-18 (CEV)

How to Re-Connect a Hurting Relationship:

1. Make a character commitment.

My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want...
Galatians 5:13a (CEV)

*Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill. Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends. Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the Lord **and keep their promises even when it hurts.***
Psalms 15:1-4 (NLT)

Big difference between committed and convenience people:

- **Emotion Based vs. Character based.**
- **What is easiest? vs. What is right?**
- **When I feel good then I'll do it vs. When I do it, then I'll feel good.**

- **Controlled by my moods. vs. Controlled by my priorities.**
- **Selfish mind-set. vs. Servant hood mind-set.**
- **Life and lips disagree. vs. Their words and action agree.**
- **Look for excuses. vs. Look for solutions.**
- **Outwardly influenced. vs. Inwardly influenced.**
- **Quit during tough times. vs. Persevere through tough times.**
- **They whine. vs. They win!**

2. Become other person minded.

But if you keep attacking each other like wild animals, you had better watch out or you will destroy yourselves.
Galatians 5:15 (CEV)

- **Focus on what is right with the relationship.**

*...Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to **love others as much as you love yourself.***
Galatians 5:13b-14 (CEV)

*Don't use your mouth to tell lies; don't ever say things that are not true. **Keep your eyes focused on what is right, and look straight ahead to what is good.** Be careful what you do, and always do what is right.*
Proverbs 4:24-26 (NCV)

- **Watch the seeds you sow in your relationships.**

*Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. **The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds!** But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.*
Galatians 6:7-8 (MSG)

3. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide how you relate.

*If you are guided by the Spirit, you won't obey your selfish desires. The Spirit and your desires are enemies of each other. They are always fighting each other and keeping you from doing what you feel you should. **But if you obey the Spirit,** the Law of Moses has no control over you.*
Galatians 5:16-18 (CEV)

- **Develop coping skills.**

*By his divine power, **God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.** We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory*

*and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. **These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.***
2 Peter 1:3-4 (NLT)

- **Verbalize your commitment continually.**

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.
1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

*"And now, here's what I'm going to do: I'm going to start all over again. I'm taking her back out into the wilderness where we had our first date, and I'll court her. **I'll give her bouquets of roses. I'll turn Heartbreak Valley into Acres of Hope.** She'll respond like she did as a young girl, those days when she was fresh out of Egypt.*
Hosea 2:14-15 (MSG)