

Summer Lovin' – Part 5

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)

Recap:

- **Communication is the lifeblood of all healthy relationships.**
- **We must become mature in our communication.**

The Care Principle: Consideration must be the heart of healthy relationships.

- **We must become mature in our care.**

*So, as God's own chosen people, who are holy [set apart, sanctified for His purpose] and well-beloved [by God Himself], **put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience** [which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper]*
Colossians 3:12 (AMP)

Do everything in love.
1 Corinthians 16:14 (NIV)

Three Reasons we Struggle to be Mature in our Care:

1. **We allow something precious to become something familiar.**
2. **We lack an understanding of how much we are loved.**

*This is the reason I kneel in the presence of the Father from whom all the family in heaven and on earth receives its name. I'm asking God to give you a gift from the wealth of his glory. I pray that he would give you inner strength and power through his Spirit. Then Christ will live in you through faith. **I also pray that love may be the ground into which you sink your roots and on which you have your foundation. This way, with all of God's people you will be able to understand how wide, long, high, and deep his love is. You will know Christ's love, which goes far beyond any knowledge. I am praying this so that you may be completely filled with God. Glory belongs to God, whose power is at work in us. By this power he can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory belongs to God in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time and eternity! Amen.***
Ephesians 3:14-21 (GWT)

3. We fail to recognize "Who" is ultimately in charge.

I, a prisoner in the Lord, encourage you to live the kind of life which proves that God has called you. **Be humble and gentle in every way. Be patient with each other and lovingly accept each other.** Through the peace that ties you together, do your best to maintain the unity that the Spirit gives. There is one body and one Spirit. In the same way you were called to share one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **one God and Father of all, who is over everything, through everything, and in everything.** **Ephesians 4:1-6 (GWT)**

Two Thoughts on Consideration:

- **Consideration is learned.**

I have a serious concern to bring up with you, my friends, using the authority of Jesus, our Master. I'll put it as urgently as I can: **You must get along with each other. You must learn to be considerate of one another,** cultivating a life in common.
1 Corinthians 1:10 (MSG)

- **Relationships are the school of consideration.**

Bearing graciously with one another, and willingly forgiving each other if one has a cause for complaint against another; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so should you forgive. **Beyond all these things put on and wrap yourselves in [unselfish] love, which is the perfect bond of unity** [for everything is bound together in agreement when each one seeks the best for others]. Let the peace of Christ [the inner calm of one who walks daily with Him] be the controlling factor in your hearts [deciding and settling questions that arise]. To this peace indeed you were called as members in one body [of believers]. And be thankful [to God always].
Colossians 3:13-15 (AMP)

How can we Demonstrate Care and Consideration?

- **By being helpful.**

*"And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, **pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.***
Ephesians 4:2-3 (MSG)

- **By being sympathetic.**

*We who are strong **must be considerate of those who are sensitive** about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord.*
Romans 15:1-2 (NLT)

- **By being forgiving.**

You must make allowances for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.
Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

- **By learning to compromise.**

*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure and full of quiet gentleness. Then it is peace-loving and courteous. **It allows discussion and is willing to yield to others;** it is full of mercy and good deeds. It is wholehearted and straightforward and sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.* **James 3:17-18 (TLB)**

Similarly, A family splintered by feuding will fall apart. **Mark 3:25 (NLT)**

People who do not get along with others are only interested in themselves. They will disagree with what everyone else knows is right. **Proverbs 18:1 (GN)**

...Love does not demand its own way... **1 Corinthians 13:5 (LB)**

***May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all.** Then we'll be a choir—not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus!* **Romans 15:5-6 (MSG)**