

Summer Lovin' – Part 9 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)

"Dealing With Conflict"

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, **live at peace** with everyone.

Romans 12:18 (NIV)

Principle: Conflict handled the right way produces intimacy.

Ways People Deal With Conflict:

- Some people **run from** conflict.
- Some people **ignore** conflict.
- Some people **hide** from conflict.
- Some people **create** conflict.
- Some people **deal** with conflict.

Jesus confronted their slander. "A judge who gives opposite verdicts on the same person cancels himself out; **a family that's in a constant squabble disintegrates.**

Matthew 12:25 (MSG)

Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, "Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or **family splintered by feuding will fall apart.**

Matthew 12:25 (NLT)

Jesus knew what they were thinking, and he said to them: Any kingdom where people fight each other will end up ruined. And a town or **family that fights will soon destroy itself.**

Matthew 12:25 (CEV)

A home filled with strife and division destroys itself.

Mark 3:25 (LB)

Why do you fight and argue with each other? **Isn't it because you are full of selfish desires that fight to control your body?** You want something you don't

have, and you will do anything to get it. You will even kill! **But you still cannot get what you want, and you won't get it by fighting and arguing. You should pray for it.** Yet even when you do pray, your prayers are not answered, **because you pray just for selfish reasons.**

James 4:1-3 (CEV)

- The root cause of conflict is: **Competing desires!**
- It is always more rewarding to **resolve a conflict** than to **dissolve a relationship.**

How To Have a Good "Fight!"

I. Prepare for the fight.

- Pray – Talk to God.

So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. **We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.** Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. **We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need.** May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Colossians 1:9-14 (NLT)

- Admit your own need - Ask yourself, "How much of this is my fault?"

"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. **For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.**

Matthew 7:1-2 (NLT)

"Don't pick on people, jump on the failures, criticize their faults- unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomerang."

Matthew 7:1-2 (MSG)

If we say we have not sinned we're just deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8 (NKJV)

- Have the right attitude - Win/Win or no deal!

God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

Matthew 5:9 (NLT)

- a) **I win – You lose.**
- b) **You win - I lose.**
- c) **Nobody wins – We both lose.**
- d) **We win – We win together.**

*Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love?
Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?*

***Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other,
loving one another, and working together with one mind and
purpose. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of
others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests,
but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that
Christ Jesus had.***

Philippians 2:1-5 (NLT)