

SERMON NOTES

Growing Up 4 - Relationships

Introduction:

Just as children grow and have milestones regarding food and behaviour, their relationships change and the way they relate to others is a sign of maturity.

Children's relationships can be characterised as...

- Selfish
- Controlling
- Fickle
- Partisan

1 Corinthians 13:11,13 (NKJV) - When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- **Partisan** - ganging up against others.

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 (NKJV) - And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

2 - I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

3 - for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

4 - For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

- **Selfish and self centred** - unable to consider the wellbeing or perspective of others.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV): 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Romans 15:1-2 (NKJV) — We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.

Romans 14:1-2 (NKJV) — Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.

For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.

Galatians 6:1-2 (NKJV) — Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

- **Fickle** - unable to commit.

Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV) - joined and linked. integrated, speaks truth, not blown about.

Psalms 92:13-14 (NKJV) - 13 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing.

1 Corinthians 13:7 (NKJV) - ALWAYS... always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

- **Controlling**: Manipulative and controlling OR Need to be told what to do. Vs call no one father. Vs Paul's statements in Corinthians.

Romans 1:12 (NKJV) — that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

2 Corinthians 1:24 (NKJV) — Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.

Matthew 23:8 (NKJV) — “But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.

Matthew 23:9 (NKJV) — “Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

Matthew 23:10 (NKJV) — “And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:5 (NKJV) — Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

1 Corinthians 9:2 (NKJV) — If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The background re Paul and Apollos - factions

1 Corinthians 1:10-13 (NKJV) 10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions (*schisma*) among you, but [that] you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s [household,] that there are contentions among you.

12 Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.”

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

1 Corinthians 16:10-12 (NKJV) - 10 And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do.

11 Therefore let no one despise him. But send him on his journey in peace, that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren.

12 Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite unwilling to come at this time; however, he will come when he has a convenient time.

Unity

Unity isn't ...

Some points / misconceptions about unity:

- It does not mean all meeting together
- It does not mean all being exactly the same

Unity is... respect, love, honour and support for others while we all seek to complete the great commission in our own ways.

John 17:20-23 (NKJV) — “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. “And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: “I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

John 13:35 (NKJV) — “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.