

Keys to Joyful Relationships

June 3rd & 4th, 2017

Philippians 2:1-3

These verses give us insight into maintaining healthy and joyful relationships!

I. God created relationships!

Genesis 2:18 "Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'"

❖ Sin caused a separation between God and man!

Isaiah 59:1-8

Deuteronomy 5:29 "Oh that they had such a mind as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!"

❖ Jesus came to restore our relationship with God!

- Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us!

Romans 5:1 "...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Corinthians 5:19 "that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."

John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, ... but I have called you friends, ..."

Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteous and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

II. God has a design for how relationships should work!

"In Christ" ...there is encouragement!

*"In their union with the Savior they find encouragement to pursue unity with each other."*¹

- ❖ In Ephesians 1:3-14, Paul reminds us that in Christ we have: *"every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places"*; redemption, forgiveness and purpose; an inheritance; hope; a new way to live; an ultimate destination to be with Christ forever!

"In Christ" ...there is comfort!

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-10

"In Christ" ...there is participation in the Spirit!

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." John 6:63

"When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth,..." John 16:13

"In Christ" ...there is affection and sympathy toward one another!

- ❖ Affection and sympathy both mean ... *"An agreement of affections or inclinations, or a conformity of natural temperament, which makes two persons pleased with each other."*²

"In Christ" ...there is unity of mind and purpose!

“...fixing our eyes on Jesus, ...” Hebrews 12:1-2 (NASB)³

“...complete my joy...”

Paul’s joy was not in their successful growth, or financial success, or
in the size of their congregation, but in their healthy relationships!
This is God’s heart and desire for His people!

Endnotes:

¹ Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

² Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

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