

Holy Relationships

Introduction

- Continue series, “Holy Cow, Living for God in an ungodly culture”
 - Acknowledge it’s challenging Living for God in today’s world; competing priorities; culture defining what is acceptable and what one needs to be ‘successful’
- Two Weeks ago: Holy Living is NOT Sin Management (trying harder)
 - Holy Living IS the ability to “love one another deeply, from the heart”
- Last Week: You are living stones (individual), chosen and precious, being built into God’s temple/dwelling/oikos (collective), we accomplish this by recognizing our identity, calling and assignment
- Today= Continue to look at this ability to “love one another deeply, from the heart” as it pertains to relationships

Tension: Relationships are HARD! Can I get an Amen? How are we to “Be holy” in all of our human relationships? Peter gives some instruction here in chapter 3 on how we can strive to be holy in our relationships, all relationships not just romantic/marriage relationships.

- There is a lot in today’s verses! And a lot of things that can get women especially riled up, but hang with us please 1 Peter 3: 1-7(NIV)

- Deal with word ‘Submit’ right off:
 - Synonym that is helpful= YIELD
 - Submission is NOT:
 - Submit does not mean ‘Lord over’
 - Submit not mean slave or to impose strict rules and expectations on your wife
 - Submit does not mean take advantage of
 - Submit does not mean treat like property, or garbage, or like your spouse is somehow ‘less than’
 - The passage we used in our Better Marriage sermon last August was Ephesians 5:21-33
 - In that passage you get the word submit also, but to start the passage v. 21 says:
Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)
 - Mutual Submission (Greek= ‘to be subject to’)
 - YIELD to one another
 - Kris V example! At times best to yield to your wife, others times the opposite (partnership); as a husband, I don’t mind making ‘final call’ if the need arises (potentially Biblical)
 - Kris Vallotton= Co-lead in marriage, Yield to each other based on situation
 - Each spouse has their strengths and one is better at certain things in certain situations
 - Scripture is pretty clear that women are not ‘less than’ men - men and women are created equal, but not the same
 - This verse= we are to be subject to each other in all relationships
 - Ecclesiastes= 3 fold cord - marriage ideal
 - **Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)**
 - Husbands have the taller order in these passages (here and in Ephesians 5)???
 - I know the women might disagree, but hang with me
 - V. 7 “be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner”
 - There it is “weaker partner”
 - Physically
 - Men and women were both created in the image of God; they were created equal, but were not created the same, there are differences!
 - Respect
 - The Ephesians 5 passage gives this instruction for husbands in v.25: “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,”
 - Unconditional love

- Word “considerate” here in other translations= “honor”
 - **Romans 12:10 (NRSV)** love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.
 - Traditional wedding vows : “to love, honor, and cherish”
 - How?
 - Starters: Honor love language
 - 5 love languages
- V. 7 also includes an interesting warning for husbands= ‘so that nothing will hinder your prayers.’
 - Think about that for a second. . . .the way a husband treats his wife can affect his prayers!
 - Why?
 - ‘heirs with you of the gracious gift of life”
 - We all are heirs with Christ Jesus
 - Spiritual and earthly consequences to our behavior, what we do in the natural can affect the spiritual

1 Peter 3:8-12

[verse 8-12 - applicable to home/family, also applicable to ‘church family’]

- These verses give the ‘ideal’ within the Oikos
- When ‘pull back the curtain’ on families in America, going to see a wide spectrum...family relationships get messy, and unholy
- These verses expand on how all our relationships are supposed to be, look at the words used here:
 - Like-minded, Sympathetic, Love, Compassionate, Humble, Don’t repay evil with evil, Keep tongue from evil/ lips from deceitful speech, Do good, Seek and pursue peace
- Isn’t this how all our relationships should look as followers of Christ?
 - Holy Relationships!!!
 - Remember holy= “set apart, different”
 - Our relationships are supposed to look different from the “world” and “culture”
- Look at that list again. . . .wouldn’t that be considered ‘healthy’ even by the world’s standards. . . . recognize that’s not reality for everyone, but don’t we desire to have these types of relationships in our life?!
- How do we move towards the ideal?
 - Back to Romans 12:10 “outdo one another in showing honor”
 - Honor (Greek: esteem, dignity, value)
 - Move toward ideal by showing others honor (they are valuable; they matter)
 - Culture of honor in all our relationships
 - Family example
 - Favorite meal for birthdays; Little things=Savanna before college
- Be ‘Other-Regarding’
 - Putting others first!
 - A little test: in any relationship put yourself first and see how that goes?
 - Only attend to your likes, desires, wants, opinions
 - Guarantee that relationship won’t last!
- Holy Relationships= “Love one another deeply from the heart”
 - Show Unconditional Love

The way to accomplish Holy Relationships

1. Yield to Jesus, submit to him
2. Outdo one another showing honor

Reminds us of the two greatest commandments

Challenge: outdo others in showing honor this week; parent; co-workers; kids

ask spouse, “how can I do a better job at honoring you?”

Response

- Healing of relationships 1 Peter 2:24 “by his wounds you have been healed”
 - Promise for our relationships, not just physical healing