



STRATEGIES AGAINST RELATIONSHIPS

Genesis 2:18

The LORD God said, "it is not good for the man to be alone,. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (two are better than one)



God's Design for our lives is to have rich relationships:

1. What impact did a relationship have in bringing you to Christ as your Savior?
2. Iron sharpening iron. Proverbs 27:17
3. Encouragement/comfort I Thess. 5:11/2 Corinthians 1:4
4. We are to confess to /pray for one another James 5:16
5. Bear each other's burdens Galatians 6:2
6. Don't neglect fellowship with one another. Hebrews 10:25
7. God desires unity in the Body of Christ 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, Hebrews 12:14

It does not mean that we need to be all the same...we are created uniquely different...*but we are ALL in the same field working for the same Master and for the same goal*...being and accurate representation of Christ to the unsaved so they too can come to a personal relationship with Christ.

It is in our DIFFERENCES that we often find division. It is in our own areas of IMMATURITY and WORLDLINESS that we find division.

It is no wonder why Satan sets a target to attack our relationships...

**Our family relationships*

**Our Christian relationships*

**Our relationships with those who don't know Christ*

If Satan can divide...he can conquer here on Earth.
The Holy Spirit is here to unify believers.



Hebrews 12:5

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

*One single event can be so damaging that it divides a relationship(s).

*A build up of challenges in a relationship(s) that is not addressed in a godly way can eventually divide the relationship(s).

* "Foxes in the vineyard" that steal the grapes...Song of Solomon 2:15

* Miscommunication can divide.

* A hurt not forgiven will turn into a bitter and judgmental heart.

* When a relationship becomes an idol you develop unmet expectations and this leads to a division.

We HAVE to address the topic of the attack on relationships with THIS mindset.

*I am only responsible for MY part

*The HS is responsible for THEIR part.

Matthew 7:3

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"



**God's Commands for Relationships/Handling the Drama!
James 3:13 through 4:12**

❖ **We all think we are WISE in how we handle our relationships.**

-Knowledge (facts) and wisdom (how to manage the facts)

- "wisdom" that is actually earthly, unspiritual, demonic in origin (vs 14-16)
(harbor bitterness and envy (jealousy)
(selfish ambition-wanting the best for myself)
(arrogance-pride, boasting)
(relationships have drama (disorder) and unrighteous (sinful) behaviors
- wisdom that comes from heaven... (vs. 17-18)
(pure-absence of sin in the perception of the facts)
(peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, good fruit (think Galatians 5:22,23), impartial (no favorites), and sincere

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness"=right choices...

FLESH THIS IN: *Focus ONLY on your attitudes, your words, your thoughts, your facial expressions and tone of voice... In an area of conflict with _____ over _____, ask the HS to open your eyes to how your life compares to the standard that Jesus has set for how you handle "with wisdom", the facts of the conflict.*

❖ **What/WHO is behind all of our fights and quarrels with others?**

1. **My Flesh.** I want, what I want, what I want....it is my right to have what I want. I expect to get what I want. (1-3)
 - *I have this expectation of others...and of God.
 - *I struggle when I see others getting what I think should be mine.

2. **My Pride.** My Pride blinds my eyes to seeing God for who HE really is and who I really am as compared to Him. (4-10)
 - *Pride puffs up our perspective of ourselves.
 - *Pride convinces us that we are right and obviously others are wrong and they need to acquiesce to our wishes.
 - *Typically the only one who can't see how "off" we are...is us!
 - *Pride will allow us to justify even the most ridiculous behaviors.

3. **Slandering my neighbor.** SOOOO hard to not do this! (11-12)
 - speaking/texting/posting anything negative against another person (whether or not we name names)
 - or...not stopping someone else from slandering but agreeing by listening quietly

I would love to say that it is ALL Satan's fault that there is conflict in the relationships in my life...but that is not the case. He is BEHIND it...but I AM RESPONSIBLE for my part.

*"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
Psalm 139:23,24*

