

Why Do We Need People?
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

Key Point: Christ Centered Relationships are relationships that are primarily devoted to helping one another believe in Jesus Christ, become like Jesus Christ and belong to the community of Jesus Christ. If we are going to build Christ Centered Relationship we must ask and answer the question *Why Do We Need People?*

I. God created people for Himself; He did not create people for our personal agendas (Romans 11:36)

- A. God created people in His image (Genesis 1:26)
- B. God created people to demonstrate the greatness of His Character (Isaiah 43:7)
- C. God created people to know Him, to worship Him and to be useful to Him in the process of building a God-Honoring community and to be ambassadors for this God- Honoring Community
(Jer 9:23-24, Deu 6: 13-15, 2Tim 2:20-21, Ephesians 4:1-17, 2Corinthians 5:15-21)

II. We should not use each other as avenues to satisfy our personal agendas (Philippians 2:3-4)

- A. We should not use people as avenues to make us happy (Jeremiah 17:5-6)
- B. We should not use people as avenues to make us secure (Jeremiah 17:5-6)
- C. We should not use people as avenues to make us feel good about ourselves (Proverbs 29:25)

III. Our goal is to love others as we enjoy them instead of enjoying them as we consider if we will love them (*people are to be loved not used*) (Matthew 22: 34-40)

- A. We should seek to build up others for Jesus Christ instead of using them to satisfy our personal preferences (Romans 15:2-3)
- B. We should seek to serve others for Christ instead seeking them to serve us for ourselves (Romans 12:9-13)
- C. We should not be looking for love but looking to love (Romans 13: 8-14)

IV. There are Six key hindrances to loving others as we enjoy them: (Insights Adapted from Relationships by Tim Lane and Paul Tripp)

- A. Self centeredness – living as if the world to revolves around you/ Self Rule – living by your own authority instead under the authority of God
- B. Self Taught- living by your own source of wisdom and truth/
Self Righteousness – living by your standard of what is right

- C. Self Sufficiency – living as if you are able to support yourself and sustain yourself apart from God/ Self Satisfaction – seeking to find satisfaction for self in people or in things apart from God and His will

V. We need people to help us be more productive in life to God’s Glory (v9)

- A. We need each other so that we may help each other function in spiritual maturity in all aspects of life (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- B. We need each other so that we may strengthen areas of weakness in each other’s lives (Romans 15:1-10)
- C. We need each other so that we may sharpen each other’s perspectives of life to grow in righteousness (Proverbs 27:17)

VI. We need people to help lift us up when we fall (v10)

- A. We need each other to help recover from the consequences of poor decisions (Galatians 6:2)
- B. We need each other to help confess and repent of sin (Galatians 6:1-2)
- C. We need each other to help replace our sin with right living (Galatians 6:1-2)

VII. We need people to comfort us in times of afflictions (v11)

- A. We need encouragement from one another in hard times (Romans 12:15)
- B. We need tangible support from one another in hard times (Proverbs 17:17)
- C. We need wise counsel from one another in hard times (Proverbs 20:5)

VIII. We need people to help us resist the temptations we will face in life (v12)

- A. We need to help one another stay away from people who lead us into sin (Jude 1-25)
- B. We need to help one another stay away from places that lead us into sin (Hebrews 3:12-13)
- C. We need to help one another stay away from products that lead us into sin (Hebrews 3:12-13)

**IX. In order to apply this insight there are 11 Key things we need to focus on:
(Insights adopted from the book Relationships by Tim Lane and Paul Tripp)**

- A. I must have a sober assessment of myself, seeing myself as Child of God being transformed into the image of Christ
- B. I must embrace and worship the Creator above the Creation finding my satisfaction in Him
- C. I must see others as either saved or unsaved and in need of the grace and mercy of God
- D. I must embrace the fact that who I am is based on who God has called me to be
- E. I must embrace the fact that the creation was not designed to define who I am

- F. I must value Christ above what I want from others and what I want to see in others
- G. I must stop trying to recreate others into my image and for my personal preferences
- H. I must look at others and see the image of God
- I. I must look at others and see the plan of God and not a view man as a hindrance or help to my agenda
- J. I must not seek to motivate others to please me
- K. I must seek to motivate others to please God
(Concept Adapted from Steve Viars Sermon Called “Why Do We Need People” 10/03 NANC Conference)

Basic Roles We Should Play In Life

- A. As Ambassadors for Jesus Christ, Christians are to build open and loving relationships with unbelievers to present the message of reconciliation (2Corinthians 5:20-21).
 - 1. As ambassadors, Christians seek to persuade unbelievers to accept the reality of the judgment of Christ to come on sin.
 - 2. As ambassadors, Christians seek to explain to unbelievers the reality that all have sinned and need to be saved from the coming judgment of Christ to come on them as a result of their sin.
 - 3. As ambassadors, Christians seek to persuade unbelievers to repent of sin and be reconciled to God through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ resulting in being saved from the penalty, power and soon presence of sin unto a genuine relationship with God where they are made righteous as result Christ taking their penalty and punishment for sin; leading to knowing Jesus Christ, becoming like Jesus Christ, and being useful to Jesus Christ.
 - 4. Ambassadors are motivated by God’s love which leads them to understand that their life is to be lived for Christ since He died for them; This leads them to see people according to their condition before God(saved or not saved) This leads them to see people as new creatures in Christ or in need of reconciliation in Christ.
- B. As Builders for Jesus Christ, Christians are to build open and loving relationship with other believers to help believers develop in maturity in Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16).
 - 1. Saints are to work on building each other up to the unity of the faith- helping all saints to reach oneness in our faith in Jesus Christ; helping all saints reach the same level of trust in Jesus Christ.
 - 2. Saints are to work on building each other up in unity in the knowledge of the Son of God- helping all saints reach the same level of full, correct, and precise knowledge of Christ in all aspects resulting in waling in maturity in all aspects of life as Christ would.
 - 3. Saints are to keep other saints from being led astray and unstable in their lives as a result of listening to every wind of doctrine-different teachings of religious quacks and philosophers.
 - 4. Saints are to keep other saints from being led astray and unstable in their lives as a result of the trickery of men -con artist of the faith; men who play on your neediness or greediness.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

The Various Roles I have in Life	Loving Thoughts I should have towards others in this role	Loving Words I should have towards others in this role	Loving Service I should do towards others in this role	Any other things I can think of
Father/Husband				
Wife				
Child				
Brother				
Sister				
Aunt				
Niece/Nephew				

<i>THE VARIOUS ROLES I HAVE IN LIFE</i>	<i>LOVING THOUGHTS I SHOULD HAVE TOWARDS OTHERS IN THIS ROLE</i>	<i>LOVING WORDS I SHOULD HAVE TOWARDS OTHERS IN THIS ROLE</i>	<i>LOVING SERVICE I SHOULD DO TOWARDS OTHERS IN THIS ROLE</i>	<i>ANY OTHER THINGS I CAN THINK OF</i>
Grandfather				
Grandmother				
Cousin				
Mother-in-law				
Father-in-law				
Son-in-law				
Daughter-in-law				
Friend				

<i>THE VARIOUS ROLES I HAVE IN LIFE</i>	<i>LOVING THOUGHTS I SHOULD HAVE TOWARDS OTHERS IN THIS ROLE</i>	<i>LOVING WORDS I SHOULD HAVE TOWARDS OTHERS IN THIS ROLE</i>	<i>LOVING SERVICE I SHOULD DO TOWARDS OTHERS IN THIS ROLE</i>	<i>ANY OTHER THINGS I CAN THINK OF</i>
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Co-worker				
Employer				
Employee				
Enemy				
Neighbor				
Authority figure				
Subordinate				