

Relationships that Empower - Part 2

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Introduction:

A. We need quality relationships to grow.

1. My English teacher used to make me rewrite my papers.
2. I hated it but she worked with me and helped me.
3. When I studied German my English knowledge helped me.
4. When I began to write I became grateful for her help.

B. Sports models and musicians have a powerful impact on young people.

C. Individuals who refuse to work with others often do not make it in ministry.

D. We need encouragers.

1. For every one encourages there are ten discouragers.
2. Be that one encourager.
3. We need people who will stir us up to good works. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
4. I just learned about a relationship problem in our ministry and I am discouraged.

E. We need protection.

1. I am responsible for my own life but we need each other.
2. We need to be available to help each other.

F. We need to finish well.

1. Leaders need a network of relationships.
2. Ben Franklin had a group of creative thinkers in his life.

G. We need each other.

1. Two are better than one. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)
2. We are warriors together back to back.
3. One man sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17)

4. Two in prayer are powerful. (Matthew 18:19-20)
5. God answers united prayers. (Matthew 20)
6. I often have 90-day prayer vigils.
7. God takes prayer seriously so when you pray watch for the next thing he does.
8. Friends are like brothers in time of need. (Proverbs 17:17)

H. The quality of your life will be in direct proportion to the relationships you build.

1. Build good relationships.
2. Most parents either give up or give in during the teenage years.
3. I had a great environment as a youth but no so today.

I. One who does not know the power of relationships is not involved.

1. Tap into meaningful relationships.
2. Get involved.
3. Most relationships begin with adoration then move in to disappointment and finally appreciation.

J. I operate from a basic premise. (Ephesians 2:10)

1. We are God's workmanship.
 - a. We have the Spirit of God to do God's work.
 - b. God will not ask us why we weren't like someone else.
 - c. God will ask us why we didn't reach our own potential.
 - d. God created us all unique.
 - e. In one cubic foot of snow there over 900,000 unique flakes.
 - f. God loves variety.
 - g. There are 300,000 species of beetles.
 - h. God made you the way he wanted you to be.
 - i. God has a purpose for each of us, even with our imperfections.

j. God brings circumstances into our lives to prepare us for his purposes.

k. There are phases in life to develop us.

2. God is our over comer. (Romans 8:28)

a. Joseph had a difficult circumstance in his teens. (Genesis 37)

b. Next he became a slave.

c. Next he became a prisoner.

d. God used all these experiences.

e. Finally he became a ruler.

f. The world says we are finished when we get older but God says we are beginning.

g. Joseph's brothers were dysfunctional.

h. Joseph's coat of many colors became a bad thing.

i. Joseph held on to his dreams.

I. Life changes are important to development.

A. Life begins at 18.

B. Manhood begins at 30.

C. The next important change occurs at 50.

II. Back to the 20s, the age of learning where we realize who we are.

A. We are a creation of God. (Psalm 139:13)

1. Our past impacts us as well as our present and future.

2. We don't have to let the past dominate us if it was negative.

3. Look up to see what God is doing in us.

4. Ability, skill, and personality need to develop.

a. When putting together items we rarely read directions.

b. 80% of college grads never work in the area of their major.

5. We ought to help kids discover who they are.

6. We are all unique.

B. We are children of God.

1. We receive the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts.

2. We need to develop our spiritual gifts.

a. God will hold us accountable for developing these gifts.

b. I help people discover their gifts even late in life.

c. Many people feel their gifts are a private thing.

d. I ask people to identify their spiritual gifts and ask others to identify gifts in others.

e. People have one primary gift and a secondary gift.

C. We are servants of God.

1. We need to please our master.

a. Paul was purpose driven. (2 Timothy 4)

b. Barnabas was encouragement driven. (Acts 11)

c. Epaphroditus was a servant. (Philippians 2)

d. Whatever God gives us to do is important.

e. Trying to be someone else is counterproductive.

f. My mom was a natural evangelist.

g. We each need to expect God to use us for who we are.

h. One of my daughters has the gift of helps.

2. We can't do everything; just what God created us to do.

D. In the 20s we need experience and feedback.

1. A young man asked me about going on a two year mission trip with Navigators.

2. I told him to go and let God speak to him on the field.

3. Marriage, school, vocation, career, and mentors are all decisions made in the 20s.

4. We need perspective in the 20s.
 5. My one son is studying at West Point.
 - a. He wondered about Ranger training.
 - b. He went for it but because his leader messed up he did not pass even though he took over leadership and got the group back on track.
 - c. They invited him to try again and he accepted only after realizing that his response to disappointment will mark his life.
 - d. He read the life of Joseph and decided to go for it.
 - e. His superiors recognized leadership potential in him and he passed.
 - f. This experience will encourage him to persevere through discouragement.
 6. In the 30s we need to make a contribution.
 7. In the 40s and 50s we need to invest in the lives of others.
 8. These steps are taken best if we discover who we are in the 20s.
- E. Next time we will talk about the importance of the 30s.

III. Prayer,

- A. Lord Jesus, thank you for making us unique.
- B. We are created to be sons.
- c. We have personality and skills.
- D. Our gifts will determine our effectiveness in the kingdom.
- E. We are called to make a particular mark based on our gifts.
- F. Help us to hear what you say about your purpose for us.
- G. Use us and help us to be good stewards and hear you say well done.