

40 Days of Community

February 18, 2007

Building Better Relationships

Romans 12:5 (NCV) *we are many, but in Christ we are all one body. Each one is a part of that body, and each part belongs to all the other parts.*

Enemies of Community:

1. _____ destroys relationships

James 4:1-2 (NIV) *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight.*

Proverbs 28:25 (TEV) *Selfishness only causes trouble.*

_____ builds relationships

Philippians 2:4 (NCV) *Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others.*

Galatians 6:8 (Message) *The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others and ignoring God, harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for it in his life is weeds. But the one, who plants in response to God, letting God's spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life and eternal life.*

Galatians 5:16 (NLT) *So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.*

2. _____ destroys relationships

Proverbs 16:18 (NCV) *Pride will destroy a person; a proud attitude leads to ruin.*

_____ builds relationships

1 Peter 3:8 (NIV) *live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.*

Ephesians 4:23-24 (NLT) ²³ *Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness—righteous, holy, and true.*

Philippians 2:3,5-6 (NCV) ³ *When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. ⁵ In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. ⁶ Christ himself*

was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit.

3. _____ destroys relationships

Proverbs 29:25 (NIV) *Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.*

_____ builds relationships

1 John 4:18 (NIV) *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.*

1 John 4:15-17 (NLT) ¹⁵ *All who proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. ¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in him. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. ¹⁷ And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the Day of Judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we are like Christ here in this world.*

4. _____ destroys relationships

Job 5:2 (TEV) *To worry yourself to death with resentment is a foolish, senseless thing to do.*

Psalms 73:21-22 (NLT) ²¹ *Then I realized how bitter I had become, how pained I had been by all I had seen. ²² I was so foolish and ignorant—I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you.*

Hebrews 12:15 (LB) *Look after each other...watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.*

_____ builds relationships

Colossians 3:13 (NLT) *You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*

Titus 3:3-) *"Once we too were foolish and disobedient...Our lives were full of resentment and envy. But when the time came for the kindness and love of God our Savior to appear, then he saved us – not because we were good enough to be saved, but because of his kindness and pity – by washing away our sins and giving us the new joy of the indwelling Holy Spirit whom he poured out upon us with wonderful fullness – and all because of his great kindness. And now we can share in the wealth of the eternal life he gives us."*

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NCV) ¹⁸ *The LORD says, "Forget what happened before, and do not think about the past. ¹⁹ Look at the new thing I am going to do. It is already happening. Don't you see it? I will make a road in the desert and rivers in the dry land.*