

**REALationships – Part 2 – Next Level Church**  
**April 25, 2021 “Relationships that Glorify God”**

**Welcome Church Family**

**BAPTISM SUNDAY – so excited – public proclamation – stay, participate, celebrate & if you’ve never been baptized, DO IT!**

**Getting better at being imperfect together. GET REAL...**

**Our imperfect is different than someone else’s imperfect.** We have more empathy for our own imperfections

- **ILL: He’s sarcastic / She’s unorganized & late** - well, I’m that way b/c that’s how I was raised – right, and they are that way b/c that’s how they were raised! **CAN WE GET REAL???**
- None of us are perfect, but we can get better at being imperfect together
- **Keep putting off the old life and become new in Christ** b/c he is perfect & we can follow the lead of Jesus!
  - Jesus chose to be in relationships – he could have come as a KING on a throne & everyone was on the outside, but he came as a baby, a young man, a normal carpenter.
  - He did miraculous things (healed, taught, gave his life for us)
- **But Jesus was also in relationships:** a son, a brother, a friend & he was in constant relationship with His Father in Heaven!

**This world is broken. That’s why Jesus came.**

- But we are still here on earth & that means that we have to learn to live with Jesus and with each other through our brokenness.
- **Perfection is not the goal, relationships through Jesus in us is the goal.**

**PRAY**

**Title of this Message (taking notes): Relationships that Glorify God**

**Glorify can sound like a “Big Bible Word,” but it really means to bring praise and honor...through our lifestyle, we can bring glory to God. He is our loving Heavenly Father who watches us, his kids, and with our life and in our relationships, we can bring glory to Him!**

**1 Corinthians 10:31 TPT “Whether you eat or drink, live your life in a way that glorifies and honors God.”**

**Matthew 5:16 NIV “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”**

**We are made to bring glory to Him. We can have relationships that BRING glory to God.**

- **Dating.**

**Teenagers, Young adults, Single again...it is possible to bring glory to God in your dating relationships!**

- You can remain pure and walk in God's ways.
- You can put up healthy boundaries that you both decide on, hold each other accountable to.
- You can share your faith, grow in following Jesus together.

**But this becomes harder if you try to date those who don't follow Jesus and don't share your faith. It's not impossible, but it's really hard.**

- A dinner is different than choosing a second, third, fourth date...
- Because we can quickly go from dinner to partnership and not even realize it.

*2 Corinthians 6:14-16 MSG "Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark? Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands? Who would think of setting up pagan idols in God's holy Temple? But that is exactly what we are, each of us a temple in whom God lives."*

NIV translation says *"What Partnership has righteousness with wickedness?" "What fellowship has light with darkness?"*

**If we want relationships that glorify God, then our dating needs to be LIGHT with LIGHT!**

- Some of us feel like we are in a war and it's because we have partnered with someone in the dark.
- OR we both believe in Jesus, but we aren't on the same page.
  - *"it's okay if we have sex" "the Bible is so old, we don't have to follow all it"*
  - Darkness has entered in & it's not bringing glory to God, it's bringing war & pulling us away from God
- **Friendships.**
  - We need each other. God recognized from the beginning that it would not be good for us to do life alone. We truly are BETTER TOGETHER!

**ILL: Last year was the hardest year of our lives and at every turn Matt and I knew that we needed friends to carry our burdens with us. PRAY / ENCOURAGE**

*1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."*

- How are you doing at building up your friends? When you speak life, you encourage & that glorifies God.
- There is enough NEGATIVITY / DEATH / SARCASM / CYNICISM / GOSSIP – our friendships should look different than the world

**We are back to the idea of partnership! Be careful what friends you choose...**

- **ILL: Everyone is going to the bar**, “we are all just hanging out” // Don’t understand that you are opening yourself up to darkness // Maybe you go home and feel oppression that night – temptation to go look at porn, entered darkness and don’t understand

**Let’s have friendships that glorify God.** Friendships that pray for one another, carry each other’s burdens, love unconditionally, forgive and reconcile and just keep being there for each other!

- Groups are SO important. More than a Bible Study or hanging out – it’s brothers & sisters dwelling in unity – it’s accountability, it’s growth – and it GLORIFIES GOD!

- **Marriage.**

- Marriage was made to bring glory to God. God instituted marriage and said it’s a picture of Christ and the church – that we are joined together!

*Ephesians 5:31-33 NKJV “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”*

**There is such opportunity to bring glory to God in our marriage, but it’s also the reason the enemy fights it so hard.**

- Married couples – how are you doing at leaving Mom and Dad and being joined as your own family? Some of you are struggling to glorify God b/c you’re still trying to please your parents. Put God first and each other second.
- LET’S GET REAL...
- **Husbands** – how are you doing at LOVING your wife? Kind, compassionate, holding her
- **Wives** – how are you at respecting your husband? Just as we need love, our men need respect. Affirm him. Thank him. Don’t demean him & nag him. He’s not your child, he’s your husband.

**ILL: You may be thinking, but she doesn’t deserve love or he isn’t worthy of respect.**

- Even if you feel like your husband isn’t worthy of respect now, keep doing respectable things toward him.
- Even if your wife feels unlovable, be loving and keep praying.
- You never know what may happen! I’ve seen marriages completely turned around b/c one person was willing to humble themselves, follow God’s Word, and pray!

- **Family.**

**Extended family** – some of us become the worst version of ourselves when we get around our grown brothers or sisters, our extended family.

- Spouse knows the Christian version of you, then you go to visit – “who was that person?”
- Undealt with past that affects our future...we’ve got to forgive and let God heal our past so we can move forward and bring glory to God in our present!

**Current family – our home** – are we bringing glory to God together?

**Students** – your relationship with your parents matters to God.

- Colossians 3:20 NIV *“Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”*

**Parents** – we bring glory to God in our home when we teach, model & follow Jesus ourselves.

- Proverbs 22:6 ESV *“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”*
- Have your kids in the house of God – put it first – worship, read your Bible, pray together, say you’re sorry and just keep pointing them to Jesus!
- New song Elevation Worship / Maverick City: “Talking to Jesus” – legacy of getting through life because of Jesus! Grandma, Mom, Him, his sons...what a friend we have in Jesus!
- **With Unbelievers.**
  - We’ve talked a lot about partnership as Christ followers. How we have to be careful that we aren’t in partnership with unbelievers and having them potentially “pull us away” from our relationship with Jesus.
  - But that doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t have relationships with unbelievers
  - We just need to define what this relationship is because it needs to glorify God.

**Matthew 5:16** - *let your light shine before others*

- Let it shine on social media (speaking life, light and love)
- Let it shine in the workplace (sharing the HOPE that you have)
- Let it shine so bright that the unbelieving world looks on and is so attracted to Christ in you that they want this kind of love
- THAT’S WHAT JESUS DID...he ate with sinners, he sat with unbelievers & shared truth in love!

**We are made to bring glory to God...so when we think about our relationships, here is the question...**

- Are my relationships bringing Glory to God? If Jesus were to walk in the room, would he be glorified through this relationship?
- Because He is in the room. He’s there...Not about perfection.

**2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV** *“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”*

**You can bring glory to God together & alone...**every time you embrace weakness, receive His grace, take up God’s power – you WILL bring glory to God because it’s not you.

- I want relationships that glorify God – not because we are perfect
- But because in **parenting**, we can embrace grace / in **dating** relationships we can say “I can’t do this, but with Him I can” / In **marriage**, we can keep forgiving like Christ forgave us / in **friendships** we can keep empathizing with weaknesses & loving all the same / and my prayer is that **unbelievers** will look on & see that we’ve embraced our imperfection and just decided to get better with JESUS.

**Salvation – PRAYER of repentance & that our relationships will glorify God.**