



DIVINE RELATIONSHIPS BRING OUT THE BEST IN YOU

Disciple 3 Lesson 23

Be an Example.

As we study relationships in the Bible, we discover many tips throughout the Bible for having good, loving, respectful relationships with God, yourself, and each other.

Many principles are taught in both the OT and NT. We also see examples of good and bad relationships throughout the Bible.

This section will help us highlight and apply some of the principles in our daily lives related to the relationships we have.

Assumptions:

God gives life and is the beginning of everything:

1 John 1: 1-4

Relationships begin in God.

1 John 4: 4-7

Because God is love, He asks us to stay connected with his love in our relationships.

I can still remember when I was a teenager, how nice it was when my mother was home. I could learn much easier and it felt good.

I experience the same now when my wife is around; I feel at home with her. We often talk together about the dream that God gives us. We strengthen each other. My wife brings out the best in me.

The team I am currently working with also gives me job satisfaction. It brings out the best in me because there is acceptance, honesty, and value to each other.

When there is love, you want to be there. It is attractive; it gives pleasure, peace and inner peace.

I remember receiving a call from a pastor of a church I had never visited before. He asked if I would like to speak to them. I didn't understand because I didn't know them. So I asked, "Why did you ask me?" The answer was astonishing. They had heard from my pastor that I could speak in his place. My pastor's trust in me was something I will never forget.

God wants relationships:

Gen 17: 1-3

God has chosen Abraham and He wants a covenant with His family, His people.

Through these people God wants to show who He is, what His plans are and what it means to be family together.

God is our example and we find that in His names:

Matt 6: 9

Psalms 23 Jaweh - Rohi

Judges 6:24 Jaweh - Shalom

Ezekiel 48:35 Jaweh - Sahmmah

Genesis 22:14 Jaweh - Jireh

Exodus 15:26 Jaweh - Rofeh

Exodus 17:15 Jaweh - Nessi

This relationship with God is the birthplace of life, security, protection, knowing who you are, love, encouragement, building up, provision, correction, and so much more. All of these are the basic ingredients to loving God and yourself as well as loving your neighbor as yourself.

Within this family is also the place where you are encouraged to discover yourself, find your destination and walk in it.





One day I told my dream for the future to the elders of the congregation. Nobody understood much about it. But since we were also friends, the pastor suggested that we dedicate me and the vision I shared to God. For 10 minutes these friends lifted me up; there I was lying on their hands, above their heads. They prayed to God while I lay on their hands. I know very well that they could not have imagined what God was doing in my heart then. The best was brought out in me. Thank You God for such friends.

Character and competence:

God uses relationships to mold your character and your competence.

What was God's plan for the life of Jesus?

John 12: 32-34

God had a plan for the life of Jesus. But He also has a plan for you!

To discover and fulfill His plan, God gives examples through all kinds of relationships:

Luke 2: 46-52

Jesus was 12 years old and He wanted to learn from people who could help Him.

We see this principle in our mentorship, coaching, discipleship program, but above all in father and motherhood.

Examples to follow.

A father and mother have an important role in the plan of God's purpose for our lives. Unfortunately, not everyone has good examples in their father and/or mother. Sometimes your example disappeared through divorce, death, or serious illness. Sometimes they were in your house, but they did not give personal attention. Or they were dominant and you couldn't decide for yourself.

Eph 6: 4

A godly father and mother together show the picture of who God is. And they help us to stand firm in life.

Yet difficult situations can be used to teach us very important lessons in life. Negative examples are sources of inspiration to do things differently. This can be good if you choose to follow Jesus as your Lord instead of dwelling on the injustice or trouble that has been in your life.

Jesus as an example.

Jesus came to this earth for a purpose.

John 14: 6-11

Eph 2: 1-6.14

John 4:42

John 17: 2,3

The concrete steps Jesus took to achieve His purpose.

- Gave up His place in heaven and, in voluntary obedience to the Father, left His place of safety
- Fulfilled the words of God through the prophets, Jesus came to the right place and time
- He proclaimed and demonstrated the Kingdom of God
- Demonstrated how relationships with God, His disciples, His parents and Satan can work
- He lived according to the Kingdom, became a mentor to His disciples, set them free, helped as needed and eventually handed over the responsibility and authority to them
- Finally died to do the will of the Father, through this the fellowship of God was born on earth. The death of Jesus became the birthplace of God's family on earth

What relationship lessons do we find in both the OT and NT?

Knowing God

Knowing who you are not and what you cannot do, versus knowing who God is, what He can do and for what He calls you.

Moses was brought up in the court of the Egyptian Pharaoh. Here he learned who he was as Pharaoh's son. Everyone had to listen to him. Yet that did not work. God wanted to show Moses what he couldn't do first. Only then did God call him. He showed Moses who He was! And only then could God use Moses as a servant.

Ex 18: 13-16

For example, Moses learned through Jethro to appoint people and to divide the tasks so that structure came into this slave nation. Leaders of 10, 50, 100, and 1000 were appointed. Moses learned to become a better leader by listening to his father-in-law.

Training of future leaders in OT

Ex 33:11

Moses - Joshua, Elijah - Elisha, Samuel - David

Moses, Elijah, and Samuel used their nurturing talents to improve their followers and grow them in leadership. All three students became leaders who had great victories, more so than their teacher. These mentors nurtured and drew out the best within them.

Training in the NT

Acts 16: 1,2

Paul and Timothy

Timothy was always encouraged by Paul not to look at himself, but to trust in God. In this way Timothy was lifted above his own ability. So he functioned in the gifts that God had given him.

Training in larger groups

Luck 10: 1

Acts 18:18, 19

OT Elijah and the school of prophets, Moses and the twelve tribal leaders

NT Paul and followers of the various established churches, Jesus and his 12 men, later the 70.

Jesus and Paul taught by example in taking their disciples with them. By their personal example, they demonstrated to their disciples the important principles of the Kingdom of God.

Teamwork

Clear structures are given in OT and NT;

- family life, church life, social life
- Authority and accountability
- Regulations and their communication
- Consequences if these rules are not followed
- Separation between the government of the people and the spiritual community
- Clear division of tasks, including the resources and spaces to work

All these structures are provided for living together in harmony. They are wonderful examples of how groups function as God intended.





GROUP ASSIGNMENT:



Discuss with each other who are good examples for you. Explain why you appreciate these good examples.

Discuss with each other which authorities in your life have helped to bring out the best in you.

PRINCIPLE 40

God is love, He wants to be the connected with his love in all our relationships. God gives us relationships to bring out the best in ourselves. We are given to others to bring out the best in them.