

MAIN POINT

God's people are to cultivate relationships that honor Him and others.

INTRODUCTION

What are the most important relationships in your life?

What makes these relationships so important? How are these relationships enriched? How are they damaged?

God has designed us to be in relationship with Him and others. The best relationships in our lives grow as we value others and interact with them in a healthy way. On the other hand, relationships are damaged when we do not consider others and neglect to care for them well. Over the last couple of weeks, we have discussed habits that we need to practice in order to grow in our relationship with God. Related to our relationship with God are our relationships with others. We honor God as we seek to grow in healthy relationship with Him and those He has placed in our lives.

DISCUSSION

> HAVE VOLUNTEERS READ PROVERBS 27:17, PROVERBS 13:20, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:33, 1 PETER 4:7-8, ROMANS 12:17-18, COLOSSIANS 3:13, HEBREWS 10:24-25, AND JEREMIAH 29:13.

From these verses, what characteristics make up good relationships? What do these verses say about the value and benefit of being in healthy relationships?

What do these verses indicate about seeking relationships with those who exhibit good character? Why does this matter?

What habits might one develop to enter into healthy relationships and maintain the health of those relationships?

How does a focus on the return of Christ (as in 1 Peter 4:7-8) motivate us to love others well?

How can you seek to live at peace with others so far as it depends on you?

How has Christ laid the foundation for bearing with others? How has He done this for us?

How does regular interaction in the church spur on healthy relationships?

What is the encouragement of Jeremiah 29:13? Why is this our most important relationship?

APPLICATION

How do you need to nurture, restore, sever, or initiate a relationship this week? What will you do?