

## The Blessed Life Part 4: Relationships Bring Blessing

(Deuteronomy 30:19 NLT) "Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between **blessings** and **curses**. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!"

**It is about going through life together...we are GOD-MADE for community!**

**Healthy relationships with God and others are the most important things in life.**

### Relationships Can Be Torn Down or Built Up

(Galatians 6:8 NKJV) "For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh **reap corruption**, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit **reap everlasting life**."

#### 1. Selfishness vs. Selflessness

✓ **Selfishness tears down relationships.**

(James 4:1-2 NKJV) "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You **lust** and **do not have**. You murder and **covet** and **cannot obtain**. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask."

(Proverbs 28:25 NKJV) "He who is of a **proud heart stirs up strife**, but he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered."

✓ **Selflessness builds relationships.**

(Philippians 2:4 NKJV) "Let each of you **look out not only** for his **own** interests, but also for the interests of others."

(Galatians 6:8 NKJV) "For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but **he who sows to the Spirit** will of the Spirit **reap everlasting life**."

#### 2. Pride vs. Humility

✓ **Pride tears down relationships.**

(Proverbs 13:10 TLB) "**Pride leads to arguments...**"

✓ **Humility builds relationships.**

(1 Peter 3:8 NKJV) "Finally, all of you be of one mind, having **compassion** for one another; **love** as brothers, be **tenderhearted**, be **courteous**."

### 3. Insecurity vs. Courage

#### ✓ Insecurity tears down relationships.

(Proverbs 29:25 TLB) "**Fear of man** is a **dangerous trap**, but to trust in God means safety.."

#### ✓ Courage builds relationships.

(1 John 4:18 NKJV) "There is no fear in love; but **perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."

### 4. Resentment vs. Forgiveness

#### ✓ Resentment tears down relationships.

(Hebrews 12:15 NKJV) "Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest **any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble**, and by this many become defiled."

#### ✓ Forgiveness builds relationships.

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

(Titus 3:3-7 NKJV) "For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to **His mercy He saved us**, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace **we should become heirs** according to the hope of eternal life."

### Relationship Challenge

(Isaiah 43:18-19 NKJV) "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

**How have you been selfish?**

**Who/what have you had a critical attitude about?**

**What insecurities are holding you back?**

**Who do you need to forgive?**