

Who Cares?

God – Relationships Matter! (Part 2)

We need God and each other. We have more ways of **communicating** with each other than any other time in history, and yet we are **lonelier** than ever before.

- 2 out of 5 Americans (40%) sometimes or always feel their social relationships are not **meaningful**.*
- 1 out of 5 Americans (20%) feels **lonely** or socially isolated.*
- **Loneliness & social isolation** can be as damaging as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.*

*As reported by the Health Resources and Services Administration

Goal: Relationships that are right, personal, loving, meaningful, faithful, and fruitful all for God’s glory.

So because relationships matter...

- **Prioritize...**

‘Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” Matt. 22:37-40 (NLT)

God, spouse, children, family, friends, & acquaintances (in that order!).

By **scheduling** & following through.

Additional Notes:

- **Protect...**

‘Don’t be fooled by those who say such things, for “bad company corrupts good character.” 1 Cor. 15:33 (NLT)

Against a wrong or **draining** relationship.

Against the **appearance** of real relationship.

Against unhealthy & discouraging **talk** (gossiping, lying, putting down, and complaining).

“Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” Eph. 4:29b (NLT)

Additional Notes:

- Be **Proactive...**

“Are we not all children of the same Father? Are we not all created by the same God? Then why do we betray each other, violating the covenant of our ancestors?” Malachi 2:10 (NLT)

With intentional **safeguards**.

With creative and meaningful **experiences**.

By seeking **faith**-building relationships.

Ask, “What is the goal of this relationship?”

“Is it drawing me closer to God?”

“Am I drawing them closer to God?”

“Is it causing me to compromise my faith in some way?”

“Does it build me up, or tear me down?”

“It is producing fruit for the Kingdom of God?”

Additional Notes:

NEXT WEEK (August 11):

Who Cares?

God – Justice Matters!

Malachi 2:17-35