

# **BENT BUT NOT BROKEN BY** **RELATIONSHIPS**

1 Samuel 13:13-14; 16:21; 18:6-9, 20-21, 19:11-12, 24:8-11

- Relationships can be good or bad or ugly.
- Question – *“Who have been some of the ‘good,’ ‘bad’ and ‘ugly relationships’ in my life?”*
- David was a guy in the Bible who had a number of “good,” “bad” and “ugly relationships.”  
*David at times had an “ugly relationship” with:*
  1. His father-in-law Saul (1 Samuel 18-24)
  2. His wife Michael (2 Samuel 6)
  3. His son Amnon (2 Samuel 13)
  4. His son Absalom (2 Samuel 14-15)
  5. His friend Ahithophel (2 Samuel 16-17)
- Bad or ugly relationships will rob us of joy, peace and purpose in life.
  - David – *“Malicious witnesses testify against me. They accuse me of crimes I know nothing about. They repay me evil for good. I am sick with despair.”* (Psalm 35:11-12 NLT)
  - David – *“My enemies say nothing but evil about me. . . . They visit me as if they were my friends, but all the while they gather gossip, and when they leave, they spread it everywhere. . . . Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me. Lord, have mercy on me.”* (Psalm 41:5-10)
- The quality of our relationships determines the quality of our lives, so we should constantly strive to overcome bad relationships and forge good and godly relationships.
- Question – *“How can we have the very best of relationships?”*

**TO HAVE THE BEST OF RELATIONSHIPS WE MUST SEEK TO:  
FORGE “GOOD” RELATIONSHIPS**

## ***Making Good Friendships Involves:***

### **Σ CHOOSING THE RIGHT FRIENDS**

- *The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray (Proverbs 12:26 NKJV)*
- **If we want to get our lives right with God and follow his plans for our lives, then we have to choose friends who are right with God and following his plans for their lives**
- **How do you define good friends?**
  - **They have your best interests in mind**
  - **They treat you with mutual respect & dignity**
  - **They are faithful, consistent and reliable**
  - **They will lay down their life for you**
- *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:13 NLT)*

### **Σ HANGING IN THE RIGHT PLACES**

- *Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. (1 Corinthians 15:33-34 NKJV)*
- **We tend to hang places where we feel comfortably successful when we compare ourselves to other people.**
- **The key to temptation is not to see how close you can get without giving in, but how far you can stay away.**
- *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. (1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT)*

### **Σ ACCEPTING ACCOUNTABILITY**

- *As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. (Proverbs 27:17 NLT)*
- *Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers brings success (Proverbs 15:22 NLT)*
- *Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life (Proverbs 19:20 NLT)*
- **Good friends in your life won't avoid the hard conversations.**

- Don't dispose of those who oppose
- Σ **BEING A GOOD FRIEND TO OTHERS**
  - *A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need. (Proverbs 17:17 NLT)*
  - **To build quality relationships we have to have good friends, and we can't have good friends without putting ourselves out there and making friends with new people.**

**TO HAVE THE BEST OF RELATIONSHIPS WE MUST SEEK TO:  
RESTORE "BAD" RELATIONSHIPS**

- The quality of our relationships determines the quality of our lives.

***Restoring Broken Relationships Requires:***

- **RECOGNIZING OUR HURT**
  - *"Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test my thoughts. Point out anything You find in me that makes You sad." (Psalm 139:23-24 TLB)*
  - **Confessing our hurt is better than repressing or expressing it.**
- **REPLACING HURT WITH GOD'S PEACE**
  - *"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts . . ."* (Colossians 3:15 NKJV)
  - **When we are close to the Lord we will have His peace in our hearts regardless of what others are saying about us or doing to us.**
  - *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:6-7 NLT)
- **RELEASING OUR OFFENDERS**
  - **We release people from our wrath (but not God's judgment) by forgiving them.**

***We should forgive others because of the:***

  1. **Forgiveness we've received from the Lord**
    - *"Never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." (Colossians 3:13 TLB)*

## 2. Foolishness of resentment

- *“To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do.”* (Job 5:2 GNB)
- *“You are only hurting yourself with your anger!”* (Job 18:4)
- **Resentment can't change the past, correct the problem, or change or hurt others.**
- *“Some men stay healthy till the day they die . . . others have no happiness at all; they live and die with bitter hearts.”* (Job 21:23-25 GNB)

## 3. Future forgiveness needed by us

- *“When you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive you your sins too.”* (Mark 11:25 TLB)
- **Forgiveness is a two-way street (Matthew 18:23-35).**

## • RECONCILING WITH OTHERS

- *“Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”* (Ephesians 4:31-32 NLT)
- *“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”* (Romans 12:18 NIV)

## • Sometimes we've been the “bad friend” in the relationship and we need to ask others to forgive us (2 Samuel 11-12).

- Jesus - *“If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.”* (Matthew 5:23-24 NIV)

## • Question – “**What is the Lord communicating to me through this message?**”