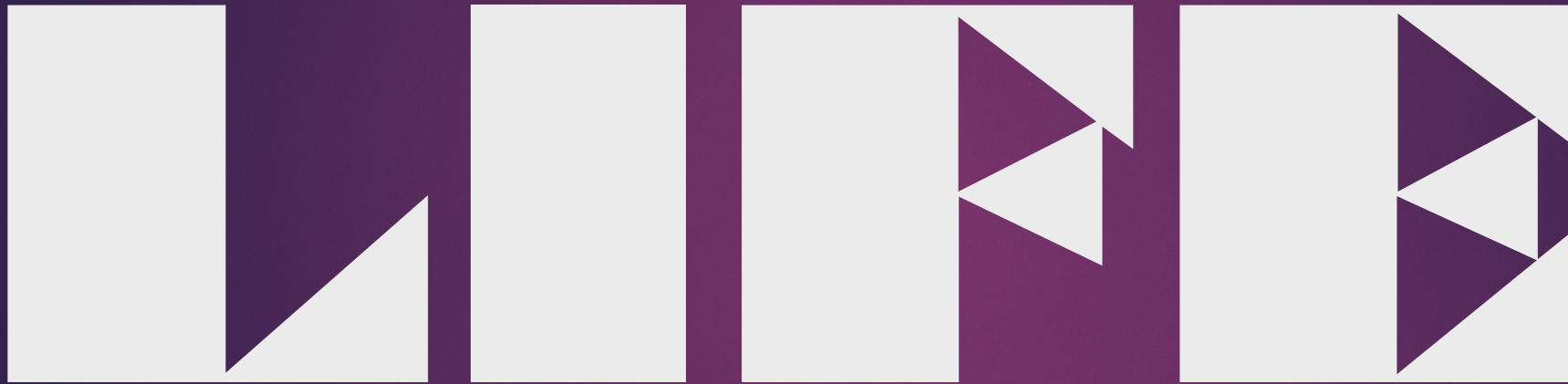


FOR A WHOLE HEALTHY



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FOR A WHOLE HEALTHY



**Stewardship of
Relationships**



GENEROSITY & LOVE

“Generosity is a part of love. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.”

- Nicky Gumbel

LAST WEEK

- The **world** gives with an ulterior motive (recognition, strings attached, etc.), and a desire to glorify self.
- The **worshipper** gives as a response of gratitude and desire to glorify God.

THIS WEEK

- The **world** loves with an ulterior motive (recognition, strings attached, etc.), and a desire to glorify self.
- The **worshipper** loves as a response of gratitude and desire to glorify God.

STEWARDSHIP OF RELATIONSHIPS

It's not only our finances that are impacted by whether we have a generous spirit, our relationships are impacted, too.

STEWARDSHIP OF RELATIONSHIPS

Love is at the core of the health of relationships, and is displayed in how we handle conflict, both as the one who is offended and the one who is offender.

OFFENDED

1. Pursue
2. Forgive

OFFENDER

1. Repent
2. Respond

LUKE 6:27-36

*“But to you who are listening I say: **Love** your enemies, **do good** to those who hate you, **bless** those who curse you, **pray for** those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, **turn to** them the other also. If someone takes your coat, **do not withhold** your shirt from them. **Give** to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what*

LUKE 6:27-36

*belongs to you, **do not demand** it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect*

LUKE 6:27-36

*repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But **love your enemies**, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, **because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.***

LUKE 6:27-36

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

KEY THOUGHT

*Love isn't love until it's undeserved.
If love is deserved, then it's reward.*

THE BIBLE TEACHES US TO...

1. *Love God. Love your neighbor.*
2. *Love your enemy.*
3. *Seek peace and pursue it.*

PURSUING PEACE

Within the family of God, there is an element of accountability of love, such that when we have been offended, there is a process in the pursuit of peace that includes bringing others in to help us in our troubled relationships. *(See Matthew 18:15-20)*

UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

There are too many relationships within the family of God that are living in a dangerous state of “unhealth” and not being tended to appropriately.

UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

If we have not sought and pursued peace and love in those broken relationships within the family of God (church, children, spouse), then we are outside of God's will.

AVOIDING vs. ADDRESSING CONFLICT

Avoiding conflict doesn't lend to the health of our relationships. Addressing conflict, in love, does.

LOVE PRESSES

When pressed, the offending person either responds in brokenness and humility (often resulting in relational healing) or anger and pride (possibly resulting in relational severing).

LUKEWARM

Jesus doesn't want us to languish in "lukewarm" (apathetic) relationships.

REVELATION 3:14-20

14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

REVELATION 3:14-20

17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' **But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.**

18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you

REVELATION 3:14-20

*can see. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. **So be earnest and repent.** 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*

OFFENDER

Repent and respond.

- Remorse (def): feelings from wrongdoing
- Repentance (def): taking action to repair

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself in love. – Galatians 5:6a

HOW TO SAY, "I'M SORRY."

1. I'm sorry for...
2. This is wrong because...
3. In the future, I will...
4. Will you forgive me?

APPLICATION

When you and I think of our broken relationships (in which you have been offended or been the offender), **who comes to mind?**

Write down their name, present them to God, ask Him for help, and apply what you've heard.

GETTING HELP

If you're struggling and need help, **come to the church**. Don't let the enemy hold you hostage in your struggling relationships.

CONCLUSION

When we understand, experience, and submit ourselves to the love of Christ for us, He meets us where we are and begins walking with us in our relationships, such that we will more and more love others the way that He has loved us.