



# Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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**-Covenant-Relationship-Month-**

## RECEIVE ONE ANOTHER

*Message preached on Sunday Morning, October 15, 2023*

### Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- 9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.  
10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.  
11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?  
12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

God put this principle together at the beginning...in the garden.

Genesis 2:18 – “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”

While we know that this specifically has to do with a wife (spouse), we also know that it is a UNIVERSAL RULE...it is NOT good that man be alone!

### ***We need one another.***

**BELOVED:** If your vision for your life can be done on your own...then you have a selfish and small vision. The vision from the heart of God will always take others to get it done.

That is why God chose covenant relationships for mankind to operate in...so we can do what we couldn't do on our own.

**QUICK HIT:** If you remember the past couple weeks...we took a look at the importance of covenant relationships and why we need them.

- a.) It gives us access into God's mind...how He thinks.
- b.) It eliminates our weaknesses.
- c.) It gives us access to things that we lack.
- d.) It works as an anchor to our soul.

**BASICALLY:** It helps us get things done in life.

**“Covenant”** (defined) – “An intimate, intricate and binding relationship between two or more people that UNITES their strengths (what they do have) in order to eliminate their weaknesses.”

- a.) Intimate...that doesn't make us too nervous. It is relational!
- b.) Binding...makes people way too nervous. “What if I get tired of them? Get annoyed? What a change of scenery?”
- c.) Intricate...what in the world does that mean?

**BELOVED:** Intricate is kind of the key to the whole covenant thing. There are several little things that make up the whole of covenant.

Things of do and things of don't...things that are important to operate in...things that you need to stay far from.

Things like LOYALTY, FAITHFULNESS, WORDS YOU SPEAK, FORGIVENESS, or LACKING OFFENSE are essential.

**Today,** I want to cover an area that can get missed...but is of great importance.

If we want to develop into what God wants us to be individually...we need to help others develop into what God wants them to be individually.

**THERE** is a fleshly thing that happens when we connect with others...and it is called competitiveness... aka jealousy!

We don't really want anyone to compete with what we are doing.

- \* I want to be the best singer.
- \* I want to be the best teacher.
- \* I want to be the best at this or the best at that.
- \* This person came in and seems to have the same strengths that I have and I don't like it.

**NOW...**while it is NOT WRONG to want to do your best for God...we need one another.

**THEREFORE:** Our natural instinct is to NOT LIKE THEM...to compete against them...actually we can begin playing defense against them through gossip or even just murmuring and complaining against them.

James 3:16 – “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”

## Receive One Another

Romans 15:7 – “Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.”

**(NLT)** – “Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.”

**NOTE:** This passage is writing about how we need to follow the example of Jesus, Himself.

### ***To be like Him.***

**BELOVED:** That is a song that we love to sing (to be like Jesus, to be like Jesus, all I ask is to be like Him)...but when it comes to some areas, we forget about the whole song.

**NOTE:** The first thing that Jesus did when He stepped into ministry was find twelve guys to connect with and live life with. And FOLKS....they were not perfect. They were NO WHERE near anything like Him.

- \* They were flawed.
- \* They were from different walks of life.
- \* They didn't think like He thought.
- \* They were different.

Yet, He called them and didn't even think about moving towards His destiny without connecting to others. In the midst of their differences...He brought them to Himself in order to make Him better and to make them better.

**“Receive”** – to take to ones self, take ownership of

**“Accept”** – brings the concept of IN SPITE of differences.

**BELOVED:** I would suggest that it is because of our differences that God puts us together...it is what we lack that God connects us to.

## Teamwork

Ephesians 4:16 – “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

**BELOVED:** God sees us TOGETHER as a BODY...which each of us as a part inside that body. The body as a whole cannot do anything unless each one of its parts does its specific share. Not all parts are the same!

1 Corinthians 12:14-22

The eye needs to do what the eye does...not compete with the ear.

We know that for God to show Pastor Thad something...the most effective way it to put it in sports terminology.

Teamwork is that term. We need one another.

**ILLUSTRATION #1:** Talk about the speech that I would give at the beginning of each of my basketball seasons. What it truly mean to be a team player. I has everything to do with doing what YOU DO THE BEST...and committing to your part of the team.

**ILLUSTRATION #2:** I think most of you know that Pastor Thad's favorite sport is football...by a wide margin. So, here we go! The differences between the 22 positions of the field are large (some very large).

**WIDE RECEIVERS** – Fast, quick and can catch the ball

**CORNERBACKS** – Fast, quick and are probably failed wide receivers.

You have wide receivers and cornerbacks who are small, some who are tall and lanky (both have different skill sets that are needed).

**QUARTERBACK** – Smart, BIG arm, leader.

**MIDDLE LINEBACKER** – Smart, BIG hitter, leader

**LINEMEN** – BIG...BANG...BRUISE...one job, block!

**OBVIOUSLY** I didn't go through all the positions...but all these guys...all different...all needed.

If you get linemen upset because they don't get to throw the ball...that is dumb! They need to block. If a pass is completed...if a running back gains yards...it is on the back of those linemen.

That is why a good lineman gets paid top tier money.

**HERE IS THE KEY:** You may have heard of the movie “The Blindside”...well that title is actually a football term. It is the term of the BACKSIDE (blindsided) of the Quarterback! The linemen...usually the tackle...that blocks on a pass is said to protect the blindsided.

The quarterback doesn't have eyes in the back of his head.

He has to accept that the tackle will embrace his job and not be wishing he was a hot dog vendor. He can't be thinking about what the tackle is doing...he has to let the tackle be the tackle and the quarterback just do his job.

Look, if the tackle isn't doing his job...the quarterback will not be doing his.

**BELOVED:** When we are called to receive one another...we are called to accept the abilities and skills AND differences in one another.

**NOTE:** The same way that God did for us.

Not compete against them...but receive and accept them and even sharpen them.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Pastor Alisa and Pastor Mike and their teaching. Extraordinary! Does it threaten me? Nope! It makes me happy! It makes our ministry better!

We need one another to fulfill our callings!

**1 Samuel 30** tells the story of David and his men coming back from fighting for Saul (you know, the one who is trying to kill David)...only to find out the Amalakites had invaded their homes and taken their stuff, their kids and their wives.

The men were devastated...David was devastated...the men began talking about killing David...David was more devastated.

**NOTE:** The pointing of fingers...instead of the taking them to themselves?

David asked the Lord what they should do...should we pursue? God said, "YEP!"

So David and his men took off after their stuff.

**HERE IS THE THING:** Out of the 600 men...there were about 200 who were drained and could cross the Brook Besor. So David said...cool! We are going to leave the heavier things that we would use for camping, etc. with these men and we will be able to move quicker and fight easier.

#### 1 Samuel 30:17-20

- 17 And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.
- 18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.
- 19 And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all.
- 20 And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drave before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil.

So David came back to the place where the 200 men were protecting their equipment:

#### 1 Samuel 30:21-24

- 21 And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that were with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them.
- 22 Then answered all the wicked men and men of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them ought of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart.
- 23 Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand.
- 24 For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.

**UNDERSTAND:** All of them had a part...whether it seemed big or small...they all were a part of the victory.

## The Dangers of Familiarity

One reason we have a hard time receiving people is because we know them...all-to-well!

We have seen them fail...we have seen them grow...we have seen their weak spots and are trying to find their strong suits.

That can become where we have a hard time accepting their gifts...abilities. We continue to look at them as "little Sammy" or "sweet Jane"...instead of understanding their gifts are essential to get US where we are going.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Me promising myself that I would never need to have my kids help on technology. I was smart...I knew what I was doing...

Ya, that didn't last long!

It is interesting...the people in Jesus' hometown missed out on HIS MIRACLES because they saw Him grow up!

Matthew 13:53-58

- 53 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.
- 54 And when he was **come into his own country**, he taught them in their synagogue, **insomuch that they were astonished**, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and **these mighty works?**
- 55 **Is not this the carpenter's son?** is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?
- 56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?
- 57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.
- 58 And he **did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.**

They did NOT receive Him! They did not get His gifts.

Luke 4:16-30

- 16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.
- 17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,
- 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,
- 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.
- 20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.
- 21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.
- 22 **And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.** And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?
- 23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.
- 24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.
- 25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;
- 26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.
- 27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.
- 28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,
- 29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.
- 30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

**AGAIN:** The familiarity stopped them from receiving Him and His power!

## Conclusion

**BELOVED:** God has fashioned His body together...to NOT JUST BE together...not just build a LARGE organization.

But to build a large ORGANISM.

**HOWEVER:** It is our ability individually to RECEIVE one another, our differences, our giftings, our personalities, our strengths and weaknesses...so that we can ALL, TOGETHER manifest our visions.