



# Covenant Relationships

DON'T HANDLE EVERYTHING ALONE

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## Ephesians 2:10-13

- 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
- 11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;
- 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers from the covenants of promise**, having no hope, and without God in the world:
- 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off **are made nigh by the blood of Christ**.

**BELOVED:** This is one of the most important passages of Scripture that we can know...that we have been BROUGHT INTO COVENANT RELATIONSHIP because of the blood of Jesus.

\* **The covenant with God and us!**

**OBVIOUSLY** this is the most important for us to understand. It brings us into ALL the promises of His Word.

Hebrews 6:18,19 tells us it is an ANCHOR TO OUR SOUL.

When we TRULY understand what COVENANT is...and that we LIVE in this covenant with ALMIGHTY GOD...it is an end to all STRIFE (Hebrews 6:16).

\* **Also, the covenant with each other (the body of Christ).**

**UNDERSTAND:** This is NOT less important...just second in order.

1 Corinthians 11:29,30 – Separating yourself from the body of Christ will bring sickness and worse on you.

## **QUICK LOOK at Jesus:**

John 5:19 – “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”

**IN OTHER WORDS:** He could do NOTHING without being connected to the Father. That covenant connection was the center of His success.

**YET:** Jesus did NOT step into His fulltime ministry...and didn't even do His first recorded miracle (wedding supper at Cana) until he connected to others (His disciples).

**BELOVED:** That says something about us connecting to others in this life...and our success in this life.

**JESUS'** life and teachings refute the LONE RANGER mentality. It just won't work!

**“Covenant”** – An intimate, intricate and binding relationship between two or more people that unites their strengths in order to eliminate their weaknesses.

## 2 Timothy 3:1-2

1 This know also, **that in the last days** perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be **lovers of their own selves**, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2 Timothy 3:3-5

- 3 Without natural affection, **trucebreakers**, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
- 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
- 5 Having **a form of godliness**, but **denying the power** thereof: from such turn away.  
**NOTE:** There will be many who talk spiritual, but are not connected to the people of God or the True things of God.

**“Trucebreakers”** – breaking of covenant, **or even MORE** refusal to make covenant at all.

**BELOVED:** A major sign of the end times will be people who are afraid to come into covenant or to even keep the covenants that they have made.

A refusal to come into DEEP relationships with others.

**THINK ABOUT IT:** We live in a time where people are NORMALIZING separating themselves from others.

- \* Shop from home.
- \* Door dash (don't have to go out in public).
- \* Work from home.
- \* Church from home.
- \* Stay home from church at the drop of a hat...they usually drop the hat.

**UNDERSTAND:** We MUST keep these signs of the times out of the church and out of our lives.  
**Absolutely!**

## We are a Team!

**ESSENTIAL:** True covenant and Christianity DEMANDS on commitment and connection to God AND to one another...**where God places you HE CONNECTS YOU!**

Not just attendance...but a TEAM mindset. **Doing your part for the success of the TEAM!**

**IMPORTANT:** There is a global body of Christ that we are a part of...but God places us inside of a local body, which is where we serve.

1 Peter 2:5 – “Ye also, as **lively stones, are built up a spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

**NOTE:** Do you know the problem with LIVELY stones? They keep wandering off! :-)) I know it doesn't work as good as living sacrifice (Romans 12:1), but it still holds true!

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.

The body of Christ is ONLY as STRONG as each part doing their part!

**A PICTURE:** If someone tears an ACL at their joint...they will not play the game until that part is BACK and STRONG again...because that JOINT can't supply structure for the body.

God sees us TOGETHER as a body...with each of us a joint or ligament within that body. The body as a WHOLE cannot fulfill its purpose unless EACH ONE of its parts does its share.

That is why churches struggle and fall short of God's plan for them.

**UNDERSTAND:** A person who understands and has revelation of covenant will see themselves as a TEAM player.

- \* We need one another.
- \* We can't handle everything alone.
- \* We don't have to handle everything alone.

**ILLUSTRATION:** (Being a team player) Talk about the speech I would give at the beginning of each of my basketball seasons. What being a team player really meant. Each member doing what they do best to the very best of their abilities to accomplish a common goal.

**ILLUSTRATION:** On a football team...there really isn't a sport where they need every member of the team to do their part. Every single player!

To nobody's surprise, the QB is the highest paid person on most teams.

**QUESTION:** Do you know who usually is the second highest paid person on the team?

The offensive line! They don't get the press...they don't get the accolades, but without them the QB would spend a lot of time on his backside.

There are many of you, in this room, who may not have your name on the sign or on the web-site...but you have keep Pastor Thad from falling on his backside, because of your prayers...your giving... your team work!

All members of this team have unique talents, gifts, anointing and motivations...all are necessary for our success.

The **QUESTION** is...are you doing ALL that you have been called to do?

## Covering Our Backs

**BELOVED:** The greatest thing a lineman can do on the football field is to protect the QB's blindside... backside.

When a quarterback is defined they will talk about a lot of stuff...including his field vision. **Seeing the field well.**

But the one thing he cannot see is what is behind him. And that is where the opposition loves to attack... they will put their BEST pass rusher on the QB's backside!

**BELOVED:** That is the same way with our enemy. He loves to hit those places that you can't see...or you can't do.

**REMEMBER:** Part of covenant is to eliminate weaknesses. Your backside is your weakness.

- \* Connects you with prayer warriors.
- \* Connects you with gifts (prophecy, etc.)
- \* Connects you with musicians (especially when you aren't a musician).
- \* Connects you with sound technicians or computer IT people.
- \* Connects you with electricians...builders...young legs and backs... business men/women... paymasters...people with extra time...the list goes on!

**I heard one person say it like this:** "Both of your eyes are on the front side of your head, we have no way to perceive directly what is behind us...**perhaps we were designed to work together.**

1 Chronicles 19:10-12 (don't read until you go through the story below)

- \* Joab, the leader of David's army, goes out with his men to fight the Ammonites.
- \* The Ammonites have hired the Syrians to help them.
- \* They have positioned their armies on opposite sides of the army of Israel (in front and in back).
- \* Seeing they were surrounded, Joab divides his army into two and places one half under the command of his brother Abishai.
- \* They took their stand back-to-back and faced their opponents.

10 Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him before and behind, he chose out of all the choice of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians.

11 And the rest of the people he delivered unto the hand of Abishai his brother, and they set themselves in array against the children of Ammon.

12 And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will help thee.

- \* They proceeded to defeat the TWO opposing armies...because they had one another's back!

**BELOVED:** What do you lack...God has people around you to strengthen you in that area. What do I lack...God has given me people who will strengthen me in that area.

### ***But you must be connected.***

Part of being in covenant with someone else is to have a connection (back-to-back connection) to look out for the other partner.

Often the motto of many Christians is "don't get comfortable in your Christianity"...and I do get the point they are trying to make...keep striving for the goal.

**HOWEVER:** The purpose of covenant is to allow us to relax about our weaknesses and do what God has called us to do.

**BELOVED:** We are a team. ***You don't have to handle everything on your own...nor can you!*** You need us...we need you!

## Conclusion

To wind this up...let me give you three keys to TEAMWORK.

### 1.) **Being a team player needs to be WHO YOU ARE!**

Not simply something you do (just like faith).

### 2.) **Being a team player means our goal is for the GOOD of the TEAM, not just ourselves.**

**BELOVED:** Your dreams and goals are NOT just for yourself...it is for the team.

God has placed you in that relationship...that body...so TRUST Him with your dreams!

### 3.) **Being a team player means you MUST BE committed to LEARN how to interact with one another.**

It is no longer just about you.

- \* I don't like the music.
- \* I don't like how long he preaches.
- \* I don't like the backgrounds on the slides.
- \* I think we need to do this or that.

**PERHAPS...just PERHAPS** God has given you a job! Don't give it to someone else or wait for someone else to do it.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Being married...no longer just you. You have to learn to live with another person.

Being a part of a team isn't the most natural thing you will ever do...you must learn and work at it. That is why it says, "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3)." ***It takes work!***

***Don't handle everything alone! Connect and prosper!***