



WAYS TO DESTROY A RELATIONSHIP

SERMON OUTLINE

Sunday February 28th, 2016

PASTOR DAVID COOKE - Make Sure You Are Liked Above Being Loved
Matthew 16: 21-23

- **Five Ways To Destroy A Relationship**

1. Make sure you look good above doing good. It's all about you and your status.
2. Make sure you are liked above being loved. Pursue popularity.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

- **We Like To Be Liked**

- **Jesus Isn't In A Popularity Contest**

Matthew 16:21-27 (ESV)



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- Speaking Truth Can Strengthen Relationships

"As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ." (Galatians 1:9-10, ESV)

- When You Have To Confront

Know Yourself

1. Conflict Approaches
2. (Cooperative and Assertive Scales)
 - a) Avoiding
 - b) Compromising
 - c) Accommodating
 - d) Competing
 - e) Collaborating



- Pray First, Middle and Last

"Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things." (Hebrews 13:18, ESV)

- Go With Gentleness and Respect

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15, ESV)

- Have Biblical Truth As Your Foundation

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12, ESV)

- Be Humble

"Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."" (1 Peter 5:5, ESV)

**CHOOSING GOD'S LOVE ABOVE SOMEONE'S ACCEPTANCE
BRINGS FREEDOM.**



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Ice-Breaker

Think about a time someone confronted you with a difficult truth. What led to that? What resulted?

Read Mark 16:21-28

1. What do you think was Peter's motivation in responding to Jesus' prediction as he did (v. 22)?
2. Jesus speaks with clear directness in response to Peter. What was he committed to?
3. Jesus does relationships perfectly. In his exchange with Peter, what exemplifies healthy communication?
4. In verses 24-26, Jesus defines some boundaries for relationship with him. What does it take to deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow Jesus?
5. What is the challenge in living as if God can meet all your needs? How would living with that perspective change your relationships?

Putting it into Action

We do well to follow Jesus' example on how to truly love someone. Being liked is not synonymous with being loving. It takes courage and conviction to care more about someone's welfare than their approval. Most parents are familiar with this paradigm. With God's love filling us, we can courageously love others well. Choosing God's love above someone's acceptance brings God's peace.

6. What is God asking you to do this week in order to choose being loved by him above being liked by others?

Bible Reading Join us as we read through "40 Days of Love" - a 28 day devotional available for free at www.bible.com.

