

Not So Secret Sauce of Relationships

Good morning Gathering Family. Now before we get too far, I just wanted to take a moment for those who have not heard Pastor Paul is in South Carolina with his family, due to the loss of Mrs. Wendy's father. We can all take time to be praying for them in this time. This week I am going to be preaching in our series on Relationships. When Paul asked us for areas that we wanted to see God invade, many of us put down relationships as that area. So we are taking a look at how we can allow God to take control and live in our relationships.

When we began this series on the first week, I remember thinking about why relationships were such a big deal? I mean when we would pray over the areas that people wanted to see God move, I remember thinking man there are a lot of areas in relationships that we want to see God work. I was consumed the first week with the thoughts of why we are so consumed in relationships. I mean why are relationships so important to us. Initially, I thought about how we need community and how we want to not be lonely. But as I prayed about it, I realized that we do not just enjoy relationships, rather we were built for them. Look at **Genesis 1:27**. It says ***“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*** You see when God created man and woman He created us in His own image. God being a triune God meant that He had relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Then if we look at **Genesis 2:18** it says ***“Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be***

alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.” God did not only create us for relationship with Him but He also created us for relationship with others. In this case, we see God setting up the first relationship between man and woman. If we look at the Old Testament, we can see the relationship with God and with man throughout the scriptures. Then we fast forward all the way to **Matthew 22:36-40** where it says ***“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And He said to him, ““You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the great and [a]foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”*** Here in this text, the Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus in which commandment was the greatest, but Jesus had the right response. But what I wanted us to see in this passage is that Jesus shows us the 2 greatest commandments have to deal with relationships. One between God and Man, and the other between Man and Man.

There are many other passages of scripture which point to the fact that we have been created for relationships. But today I want to share with you How God has been speaking to me about success in relationships. **Secret Sauces** make so many different recipes taste amazing. We love them because it makes the food unique and special. When it comes to relationships, we all want unique and special relationships, so Adam shared with us the ‘Not so Secret Sauce’ to make our relationships focused on God's design.

Today we are going to look at **2 Peter 1:1-15**. Let's read this together.

In verse 1 we see Simon Peter, sharing with us who he is, and who he is writing to. In verse 1, Peter says that this is for those who have received faith of the same kind as his, which is faith in Jesus Christ. He then gives his greeting of grace and peace through the knowledge of God and Jesus. In verse 3 this is where we start to dig in. But before we dig in, I want to share with you why we are going to look at this passage. If we are created for relationships, then how do we make them successful? How can we ensure that we have the best relationships possible? I believe we must follow what God's word says will make them the best and this leads us to our Big Idea... To be honest, we usually have a very catchy Big Idea, but today I am doing something a little differently. Today's Big Idea is **2 Peter 1:3** "***seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.***" If it is His, God's, divine power that has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness then we must rely on His power to work through us in relationships.

Read verse 4.

In verse 5, we see that Peter is calling us to work with all diligence. No one has a relationship that they do not have to work at. It doesn't matter if it is a marriage, a business relationship like with co-workers, or just simple friendships. If we want to have successful relationships then we must be diligent to work and improve them. Now we are

going to walk through these next 2-3 verse very carefully and will have plenty of things to write down. So have your notes ready.

If you look here on the board or on the screens, you can see that we have three columns listed out. The First is what Scripture says, the second is God's basis or how He desires us to do these things, and the third is how we tend to use the characteristics in our relationships now.

First we have Moral Excellence! Now we know that God has given us morals but are they excellent? Well when we look at the way that we tend to view moral excellence we can see how there are times where what we say is moral excellence becomes a lot more of justified morality. For instance, we may say that well I may have talked about someone behind their back, which is gossip, but at least I didn't physically harm them! Well the reality is that if we want to bring true moral excellence into our relationships, then we must forget justifying ourselves and hold onto the standards that God has given us. So what standard has God given us for moral excellence? You can find many passages of scripture that point to the moral excellence that God has called us to, but to be specific look at **Matthew 5-7**. In this Sermon on the Mount, Jesus takes a look at the commandments and increases them to change the heart. He shows us that in relationships not only committing adultery is a sin but also looking at someone with lust is sin. He shows us that we should be humble in our giving, not doing it to boast or brag but to truly have a heart of generosity. He shows us that we should focus more on correcting ourselves than we should of judging others. These

are just a few examples that I know that people in relationships deal with. I have seen just these few immoral actions take place and ruin relationships, but if we don't want to become a shipwreck then we must implement God's basis, His Word, as our moral excellence and we must focus on Him.

Secondly, we see that we should add to Moral Excellence, Knowledge! Notice that scripture didn't say take some of these but they are building blocks, or ingredients of the not so secret sauce of relationships. So Knowledge, we all want to think that we have a great understanding of relationships. In fact, I thought I was fantastic at them. Until my own mom said that she would not date me if she was a young woman. I mean that's rough, your own mom not thinking that you are good at relationships. I realized that there were many pieces of knowledge that needed to change in me. Not just in dating relationships but in all of my relationships. **Proverbs 2:6** says ***“For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.”*** If we are seeking knowledge then we must turn to the one who gives wisdom. We must listen to what His mouth says because from it comes knowledge and understanding. In relationships, we often think that we know best and we rarely turn to God for help. But **2 Timothy 2:15** says ***“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”*** If we want to have knowledge in our relationships then we must turn to God and be diligent in our pursuit of His words to us.

The Third characteristic is self- Control.