

Connecting with God: The Relational Heart

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – April 18, 2010

John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

If we remain in Jesus (and He in us), we will bear MUCH FRUIT.

If we are separated from Him, we can do NOTHING.

The Relational Heart...

1. CONNECTS WITH GOD THROUGH PEOPLE

Other Believers:

- Are partners in your walk with Christ
- Energize you
- Encourage you (Lift you up)
- Hold you accountable
- Laugh with you, Cry with you, Suffer with you and Rejoice with you

Prov 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

2 Tim 1:2-9; 13-18

2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life-
13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you-guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 15 You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. 16 May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. 17 On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. 18 May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

The Relational Heart...

2. CAN BE SUFFOCATED BY SOLITUDE

Book: "Courageous Leadership" by Bill Hybels (p. 217-218)

The Relational Heart...

**3. IS NOT AN EXCUSE TO NEGLECT PRAYER OR
READING GOD'S WORD**

The Relational Heart...

4. CAN BE VULNERABLE TO:

- a) Placing people above God
- b) Blaming God if people hurt us