

RELATIONSHIPS ARE GOD'S TOP PRIORITY

The top ten New Years resolutions for 2015 in the U.S.

1. Lose weight
2. Eat healthy
3. Cut down stress
4. Quit smoking
5. Get a better job
6. Get a better education
7. Take a trip
8. Drink less alcohol
9. Volunteer to help others

All of these may be good, but these are not God's top priorities for us.

People and relationships are God's top priority.

God makes it very, very simple to understand what is most important in life (Mat 22:37-40).

Relationships are most important.

First our relationship with God and second our relationships with other people.

The number one thing that gets us away from our relationship with God and with others is hurt.

Satan is very good at causing us to doubt God's love for us.

Jesus uses the story of the prodigal son (in Luke 15:11-24) to show us what God the Father is like and how much He loves us.

The Father saw his son coming from a long way off and felt compassion for him.

Then the Father ran toward his son.

However, the Lord does clean us up.

The Lord does correct us, and if we don't understand that He corrects us out of love, we can get very hurt when He does.

There are things in our life that are like cancer, that God has to remove, even things we might not want Him to remove.

One thing that is harmful today, is that we have walked away from being a relational society.

We think that the technological relationships that we have are relational, when they really are not.

Stuff on Facebook tends to be shallow. Doesn't get into deep stuff, nor should it.

We don't get together and talk anymore. Even when we do get together, we still don't talk.

We do movies or video games instead.

Relationships need to start with God so that when people hurt you, you don't burn out or give up.

All relationships need these three things:

1. Need for you to talk and share.
2. Need for you to actively listen to the other person(s).
3. Need one on one time.

Caring actions and forgiveness also help build relationships.

When God talks about storing up treasures in heaven, He is talking about relationships.

It's much better to work with someone rather than work alone.

Set relational goals, with God and the people closest to you first, then with others.

SCRIPTURE LIST

Matthew 22:37-40

Luke 15:11-24

Genesis 4:3-7

Proverbs 4:25-27