

C. Communicate appreciation for _____ (vs 5-6)

Praise people for their progress.

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:” Philipians 1:6

God does a two-fold work in our lives:

- Salvation – the work God does _____ us.

“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”
Ephesians 2:8-9

- Sanctification – the work God does _____ us.

“3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;”
I Thessalonians 4:3-4

Our mistake: We judge others by how far they need to go rather than how far they have come.

CONCLUSION:

What step(s) will you take to make your relationships work?

I will...

MAKING RELATIONSHIPS WORK

Working Through Communication
Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

- A. Let’s face it, no one likes being involved in a messy relationship – the emotional scarring, the insults, the mind games, the hurts; it all starts to get to you after a while.

“3 Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me.

4 My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me.

5 Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.

6 And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.

7 Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah.”
Psalm 55:3-7

- B. God shows us the steps to making relationships work. In this series, you will learn four Biblical steps to maintaining love from the book of Philemon.

February 13	Messy Love
TODAY	Working Through Communication
February 27	Working Through Conflict
March 6	Working Through Forgiveness
March 13	Working Through Trust

The goal of this series is to show you how to make your relationships work.

- C. **TEXT:** Philemon 1-7 (Pew Bible/Page 220/New Testament)

Philemon has been called a “Postcard With A Punch”. Though it contains only 25 verses, the contents of these verses are quite powerful and emphasize maintaining love. Six times the word “love” (vs 5, 7 & 9) or “beloved” (vs 1, 2 & 16) is used here. It was written by Paul to Philemon about Onesimus.

HOW TO WORK THROUGH COMMUNICATION

Rule #1: Communicate _____, not anger.

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”
Ephesians 4:29

Appreciation _____ relationships and anger
_____ relationships.

I. _____ APPRECIATION (vs 4, 7)

“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:”
I Peter 3:10

A. When we communicate appreciation it increases the value of your relationships because it encourages the best in people.

“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”
I Thessalonians 5:11

B. Hindrances to valuing appreciation:

- _____
“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”
I Peter 5:5

- _____
“But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”
Hebrews 3:13

- _____
“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
Romans 3:23

II. _____ APPRECIATION (vs 1-3, 5-6)

“Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.”
Proverbs 27:2

A. Communicate appreciation for _____ (v 1)

Praise people for their loyalty.

“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?”
Proverbs 20:6

We nag instead of brag and give pokes instead of strokes.

B. Communicate appreciation for _____ (vs 2-3)

Praise people for their actions.

*“2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;
3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;”*
I Thessalonians 1:2-3

A pat on the back does a whole lot more good than a kick in the pants.