

Against the Tide-Lesson 3-

“God’s Desire for Women to Interact with Other Women”

Friendships are a blessing from God. Unfortunately, our society today gives us a different interpretation of relationships that results with us feeling inadequate or unworthy.

What we need to do is to look at what the Bible says in how we should look and handle these relationships.

Debi Pride states in her book “Faces of Friendship”

that “Scriptures declare that relationships are God’s gift to human beings, who were created in His image and therefore can laugh and cry, communicate, love, forgive, and enjoy companionship. The Bible teaches that it is our responsibility to build relationships rather than neglect them. What an awesome privilege this is! Though we often take relationships for granted, it is truly amazing that we have been given the ability to commune with both God and other people and then to enjoy all the emotional (and physical) benefits of doing so.”

After reading through this lesson 3, I began to have thoughts on various women friendships mentioned in the Bible.

For example: Naomi and Ruth: Elizabeth and Mary, and others

As I was recalling their relationships, I never really gave it much thought until now that these women displayed God's "One another" commands. These commands are discussed throughout this lesson.

Now, let's look back at scriptures and see what God's instructions are for women to interact with other women.

I. Loving One Another-

John 13:34-35- "A new commandment I give to you that you love another, even as I have loved you, that you love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

How should we "love one another?"

A. The Bible talks about the different types of Love

1. Philos- brotherly love-friends and family
2. Eros-the relationship between husband and Wife
3. Agape-sacrificial love- "like what Christ showed for us on the cross

B. We are going to look at "Agape love" Love others the way Christ loves us- we have the Holy Spirit as our helper.

- C. We are to “radiate Jesus” sacrificial love”
To love others the way Christ loves
- D. This love “doesn’t come naturally to us”-
We need to change our hearts
- E. Go against “self-focusedness” or as Pastor Aaron calls “navel gazing”-we need to be “others focused”
- F. One of our major testimonies for Christ is the way we show love to those around us-by what we do and what we say to others

We must always keep in mind that the way we love others will show that we are disciples for Jesus.

II. Being Kind, Tenderhearted, and Forgiving-
Ephesians 4:32- “Be ye kind to one another, tender-hearted forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

- A. We are naturally sinful
- B. We should be behaving differently than worldly people-we need a heart change, and be swimming “Against the tide”
- C. We should be actively pursuing Godliness in our everyday life
- D. How do we pursue Godliness?
 - 1. Spending time reading, memorizing God’s Word
 - 2. Praying

3. Fellowship with Godly friends
4. We are instructed by God to have a heart of kindness, tenderness and forgiveness
5. We need to forgive those that hurt us and apologize for our mistakes
6. Practicing forgiveness has mental, physical benefits-it relieves anxiety and stress in our lives

III. Bearing One Another's Burdens-
Galatians 6:2- "Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ"

- A. Obeying God's word
- B. We must be alongside our friends in good and bad situations
- C. Be available to the person
- D. Actively listening to their concerns
- E. Show care to the person
- F. Pray for and with the person
- G. Encourage the person-toward Godliness

IV. Edifying One Another-
I Thessalonians 5:11- "Therefore, encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing."

Diana Scallon mentions in this part that,

“Edifying one another requires a willingness to set aside our to-do list and to stir one another up for godliness.”

- A. Our sinful ways naturally sway us away from from God’s ways
- B. We are instructed to encourage each other Toward Godliness-the author Diana Scallon uses The word “cheer” each other toward Godliness
- C. As believers, we are brothers and sisters in Christ, and we are family
- D. We are instructed to celebrate, and rejoice with each other during blessings, and to empathize and sympathize with each other during difficult times

V. Application- “One another” attitudes

- A. We are to actively practice God’s “one another commands”
- B. Through reading God’s word, praying, memorizing, and meditating on scripture, our natural worldly thoughts can be changed to radiate godly attributes and attitudes
- C. “As a result, our relationships here on Earth are nourished”

Ladies, we need to remember to study and meditate on these “one another commands” that are mentioned in lesson 3 every day.

As I am saying this to you, a verse comes to my mind:

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven.”

So, ladies let’s all keep in mind today to “radiate” God’s love to others so we will glorify our father in heaven.

Have a blessed day!