

simple.

a study through Colossians

Simple. Relationships Made Simple (Colossians 3:18-4:1)

1. Share together the qualities that you think are important in building good relationships.
2. In Col.1:15-18 Paul tells us that 'All things have been created through Him (Jesus) and for Him'. What does this reveal about the relational purposes of God from the beginning of creation and the implications for us? Compare with Acts 17:24-28.
3. Paul reminded the Colossians of all they had been given in Jesus.
 - a) Does Paul imply from his teaching to the Colossians that the relationship with Jesus outshines all others? (Col.1:21f)
 - b) Do you consider a relationship with Jesus is more important than other relationships – ie. family, marriage, parenting, Church family?
4. Phil.2:1-8 'Have the same mindset as Jesus.' Identify how Jesus thought and related from these verses. Share incidents where Jesus demonstrated how He loved and valued people in His interaction and relationship with them.
5. What are some of the challenges to valuing others above ourselves and serving their interests? In valuing others above ourselves, how can we guard against putting ourselves down?
6. Discuss John Piper's definition of humility – 'Humility is the opposite of a sense of entitlement'. Is this realistic in our world today?
7. Col.3:12-14, Eph.4:2-3, James1:19 Rmns.12:9-13 Discuss the teaching in these verses that we are to relationally put into practice?
8. Col.3: 23-24 'It is the Lord you are serving', In what ways do we at present value and serve one another in the Church family? How can we further strengthen our relationships with one another?
9. Picture the image in John 15:5f and share the ways this speaks to you about relationships?