

April 19, 2015

RESTORE!
Restoring Our Relationships
Colossians 3:12-17

The great reality of creation is affirmed in the words of Genesis 1:
“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” **Genesis 1:27**

Being made in the image of God means humanity was created to be in relationship – with God with others. The rebellion of man to God’s boundaries and blessings, the entrance of sin, brought about the brokenness to the relationship with God and consequently all relationships. But because of His love and mercy through the person and work of Jesus, God desires to restore our relationships. Let’s work with Jesus to make this is a reality.

1. **We must keep our identity and image in Christ!**

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved...”
Colossians 3:12 (NIV)

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children...”
Ephesians 5:1 (NIV)

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And all who believe this will keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.”
1 John 3:1-3 (NIV&NLT)

2. **We must focus on developing the character of Christ.**

“... clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” **Colossians 3:12 (NIV)**

“And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him and reflect His glory even more.” **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)**

3. **We must be committed for the long haul.**

“Bear with each other...” **Colossians 3:13 (NIV)**

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” **Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV)**

4. **We must let forgiveness flow from our lives.**

“... and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” **Colossians 3:13 (NIV)**

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” **Matthew 6:14-15**

5. **We must learn how to love like Jesus.**

“And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” **Colossians 3:14 (NIV)**

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” **John 15:12-13 (NIV)**

“If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth but didn’t love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or a clanging cymbal.” **1 Corinthians 13:1 (NLT)**

“Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ, who loved you and gave Himself as a sacrifice to take away your sins. And God was pleased, because that sacrifice was like sweet perfume to Him.” **Ephes. 5:2 (NLT)**

6. We must make Jesus the center of our conversations and actions.

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” **Colossians 3:15-16 (NIV)**

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” **Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)**

“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving... For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ... and find out what pleases the Lord.” **Ephesians 5:3-10 (NIV)**

7. We must treat every relationship as an act of worship to the Lord.

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” **Colossians 3:17 (NIV)**

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”
Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)