

Welcome to New Life!

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{over for sermon notes}

January 20, 2008

Pastor Chris Puccini

Worshipping Through Biblical Community

What Destroys Relationships and What Builds Them?

Romans 12:5

FOCUS FOR THE DAY ... "God designed you with these needs ..."

- Worship God and be connected to others.
- **Romans 12:5** "Christ makes us one body and individuals who are **connected** to each other."
- Biblical community is where true relational discipleship is foundational ... And where a life of worship is lived out among one another.

What destroys relationships and ... how do we build relationships?

1. _____ **destroys relationships**

James 4:1-2 "What causes fights and quarrels? don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but you don't get it."

• **Not only are we naturally selfish ... Our culture promotes self-centered independence. Proverbs 28:25** "Selfishness only causes trouble."

_____ **builds relationships**

• **A little less of me, and a little more of you.**

Philippians 2:4 "Look out for one another's interest, not just your own."

Galatians 6:7-8 "The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others and ignoring God, harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for it in his life is weeds. But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life and eternal life."

Galatians 5:16 "Live freely, animated and motivated by God's spirit, then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness."

2. _____ **destroys relationships**

Proverbs 13:10 "Pride leads to arguments."

• **Pride is self-deceiving - Everybody else can see it, but we can't.**

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride will destroy a person. A proud attitude leads to ruin."

["First pride then the crash, the bigger the ego, the harder the fall." Msg]

_____ **builds relationships**

1 Peter 3:8 "Live in harmony. Be sympathetic. Love each other. Have compassion, and be humble."

• Allow Jesus Christ to begin to control our way of **thinking**, our **hearts**, **attitudes** and **reactions**.

Ephesians 4:23-24 "Let the Spirit change your way of thinking, and make you into a new person."

• I tend to become like the people I spend time with.

Philippians 2:3, 5-6 "Be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. Your attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God."

3. _____ destroys relationships

Proverbs 29:25 "The fear of human opinion disables."

Insecurity prevents intimacy

• We fear exposure (to who we really are) and rejection in relationships.

Genesis 3:10 "I was afraid because I was naked and so I hid."

_____ **builds relationships**

1 John 4:18 "Love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we're afraid, it shows that His love has not been perfected in us."

1 John 4:15-17 "All who proclaim that Jesus is the son of God have God living in them. As we live in God, our love grows more and more perfect, so we will not be afraid."

4. _____ destroys relationships

Job 5:2 "To worry yourself to death with resentment is a foolish, senseless thing to do."

Psalms 73:21-22 "Since my heart was embittered," -- that means resentful, "I'm bitter," -- "and my soul was deeply wounded. I was stupid and I could not understand."

Hebrews 12:15 "Look after each other. Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up, it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives."

The people we want to love the most, we often resent the most.

_____ **builds relationships**

Colossians 3:13 "You must make allowances for each others' faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." [**Titus 3:3-7; Isaiah 43:18-19**]

"DIGGING DEEPER"

For personal or small group study

Week of January 20, 2008

QUICK REVIEW: Which point or scripture passage most challenged, confused, or caught your attention in this week's message? Why?

TODAY'S FOCUS

1. How important are relationships in this day in which we live? In your life? Explain.
2. Romans 12:5 says, "*Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other.*" How is this to work in our Christian relationships and within a small group setting? Is anything else necessary? [Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 4:15-21]

GETTING THE POINT

1. If we are to make disciples as Jesus taught, then how do relationships and discipleship work together? Or do they? How do you see relational discipleship as being foundational to living a life of worship? [Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7; 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 5:1-4]
2. What elements destroy our relationships? What are the balancing elements that build them up? [Look at the four points in the sermon notes one at a time, read the scriptures that go with each point and discuss.] Which one speaks to you the most? Why? [If you have a larger group, break into groups of 2-3 and each take a point to discuss then report back your findings to the group.]
3. How can a small group teach us relational skills and help us to apply them? What is necessary for this to happen? How has this happened for you?

A LOOK INSIDE

1. We are to be people helpers. "*One of the purposes of biblical community is to help us think straight when we have been hurt.*" Who are you helping along in their spiritual journey? Who do you have helping you? If you don't have an answer, take time to pray about this and ask God to provide someone for you.