



Mothers of Teens

October 27, 2019 | Lesson 9

Recommended Listening:

2007—2 lessons on relationships; 2011—panel on relationships; 2015 – panel on relationships

Relationships

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Memory Verse:

1 Peter 3:8

*To sum up, all of you be harmonious,
sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted,
and humble in spirit.*

- I. God created us with the need for relationships.
 - A. God exists in relation with the other members of the Godhead.
 - B. We are made in His image.

- C. He desires to have a relationship with us, and He gave His only Son so that could be possible.

 - D. From the beginning at the time of creation God said, *“It is not good for the man to be alone.”*
- II. God gives us many commands concerning our relationships.
- A. The Old Testament is full of commands about how God’s people were to interact with one another.

 - B. In the New Testament Jesus summed up the whole O.T. law with two commands. . .

Mark 12:30 *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.”*

Mark 12:31 *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

 - C. The epistles flesh out how we are to love each other.
 - 1. Some relationships are explicitly identified in commands.
 - 2. Other commands must be fulfilled in the context of a relationship.

III. Foundational relationships

- A. My relationship to God is the source of my strength and my enablement to love others as I should – to live in right relationship with them.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

1. My growing in my love for God is my first priority.
 - a. Do I hunger and thirst to know God?

In his *Treasury of David*, C. H. Spurgeon described David's desire to know God expressed in Psalm 42:1 with these words, "Like the parched traveller in the wilderness, whose skin bottle is empty, and who finds the wells dry, he must drink or die -- he must have his God or faint. His soul, his very self, his deepest life, was insatiable for a sense of the divine presence."

- b. Am I giving God's Word a rich dwelling in my heart?

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

2. Every other relationship in my life will be affected by my relationship to God.

B. My relationship with my husband will affect my relationship with my children and affect their relationship with their dad and others.

1. Honor – Will my children honor their father if I don't. . . if I criticize and belittle him – with words and/or body language?

2. Submission – Will my children obey their father if I refuse to arrange myself under him in submission?

a. What if you are put in a place under a husband who is not saved, or who is not walking in obedience to God?

b. 1 Peter 3:1-2 tells wives that *“In the same way [as Jesus obeyed and suffered as described in 1 Peter 2:21-23] wives, [are to] be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.*

c. If an unbelieving husband can be won through observing a submissive wife, can our children also be impacted for good through observing our testimony?

3. What kind of behavior am I modeling for my children in my relationship to their father?

4. A husband and wife working together will be more effective in rearing their teen.
 - a. Never allowing divisions between them to be created or exploited
 - b. Never concealing information from the other parent.
5. What if a woman is having to rear her children on her own because of death or divorce?
 - a. God shows extra concern for widows and orphans

Psalm 68:5 A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation.
 - b. Cast your cares on Him.
 - c. Pray for Him to supply every need you and your children have.

IV. A mom's relationship with her children.

A. My relationship to my children

1. PRAY for their hearts.
 - a. Proverbs 23:26, *Give me your heart, . . . and let your eyes delight in my ways.*
 - b. Their relationship to God will affect their relationship to the parent(s).
2. Endeavor to show them that they have your heart.

3. By God's grace maintain a constant spirit of Christlike love for your children.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- a. Not influenced by their behavior
- b. Self-sacrificial

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

4. Humility (asking forgiveness), granting forgiveness

B. Children's responsibility to their parents (non-negotiables)

1. Respect and honor
2. Obedience

V. Children's relationship to their siblings – constant reminders and encouragements

- A. Most obvious and sometimes most difficult place where God wants us to practice Christ-like love.

Galatians 5:14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

1. A clear God-chosen place of learning to minister
2. Opportunity to learn the importance of influence
3. Opportunity to develop a lifelong tie

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

B. Pray for God to work

C. Teach

1. By example – your relationship to your children influences their relationships to siblings.
2. By Word – give them the Scripture.

Colossians 3:12-16 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. . . . Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Ephesians 4:32 *Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

1 Peter 3:8-12 ***To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. For, "The one who desires life, to love and see good days, must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."***

D. Remind and Reinforce

1. Love rules (a noun and a verb) in the home
2. Though we cannot force love, times of struggle enable us to remind them of God's Word and the consequences of unloving behavior should they choose to disobey, or of the blessings and joys of self-sacrificial love.

a) Find joy in giving up their desires

1 John 3:16-18 *We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But*

whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

b) God can still work in their relationships after they leave home.

VI. Children's relationship to those outside their family

A. Friends

1. PRAY

- a. For God to supply good friends
- b. For our children to be good friends

2. Importance of good friends

- a. Potential for great good

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

- b. Potential for great harm

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

3. Teach them how to be a good friend and to choose good friends.

- a. To be a goading friend – to influence others toward . . .
 - righteousness

- honoring of parents
- kindness
- obedience
- loyalty to God – to choose Him

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

- b. To fear God and not man – to seek God’s praise not man’s

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.

- c. To pray for those who spitefully use you.

4. Know their friends

- a. Have them into your home
- b. Show kindness and concern

B. Opposite gender

1. PRAY for God to prepare your teens for what He plans for their future
 - a. Teen years are a time to grow spiritually and emotionally and socially
 - b. A time to learn how to interact Scripturally with the opposite gender
2. Lead your children in these relationships.

C. Others

1. My relationship with other people will influence my children's relationship to others.
 - a. Do not criticize other people
 - b. Model Christ-like love.
2. Look for ways to serve others in love

VII. Key element in all relationships – communication

- A. Pray for God to open their hearts to you and guide your conversations.
- B. Encourage communication
 1. Many different kinds of communicators
 2. Ask questions

Proverbs 20:5 A plan in the heart of a man is like deep water, but a man of understanding draws it out.

- C. Look for and make opportunities to communicate.
- D. Requires listening and speaking
 1. Listen

James 1:19 This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.

- a. Not formulating answers while other is speaking

Proverbs 18:13 He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.

- b. Listen calmly
- 2. Speak
 - a. Kindly and graciously

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

- b. Lovingly

Ephesians 4:15a . . . but speaking the truth in love

- c. Gently and without anger

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

- d. Encouragingly

Ephesians 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

- e. Scripturally

