

A collage of images representing joy, community, and care, with a central red heart containing text. The collage includes a man with glasses smiling, a woman with sunglasses, a man with sunglasses, a woman with glasses, a group of people dancing, a group of children smiling, a handshake, a group of children, and a group of people in a tent.

JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

RELATIONSHIPS THAT REWARD



Colossians 3:18-21

Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.



Colossians 3:22-24

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.



3 Vital Relationships

- 1. Marriage**
- 2. Parenting**
- 3. Employment**



Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.



Desires vs Expectations



Unrealistic expectations and misconceptions

1. We expect exactly the same things from marriage



Differing expectations play out as:

1. Unspoken Rules
2. Unconscious Roles



**Expectations are the
mother of resentments.**



Differing expectations play out as:

1. Unspoken Rules
2. Unconscious Roles



Unrealistic expectations and misconceptions

1. We expect exactly the same things from marriage
2. Everything good in our relationship will get better



Genesis 2:24

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.



Marriage means always passing
one's plans and choices through
the **filter of "us"**.



By far the most dramatic loss experienced in a new marriage is the idealized image (airbrushed mental picture) you have of your partner.



Unrealistic expectations and misconceptions

1. We expect exactly the same things from marriage
2. Everything good in our relationship will get better
3. Everything bad in my life will disappear



**In marriage, God can love us through
our spouses; our spouses can be
'Jesus with skin on' to each of us.**



Unrealistic expectations and misconceptions

1. We expect exactly the same things from marriage
2. Everything good in our relationship will get better
3. Everything bad in my life will disappear
4. My spouse will make me whole



3 Types of Connections

1. Enmeshed relationships
2. Disengaged relationships
3. Interdependent relationships



**Enmeshed relationships unconsciously
make their partner completely
responsible for their well-being.**



Disengaged relationships are so isolated and independent from each other that they function more like neighbours and business associates.



Interdependent relationships occur when two people with self-respect and dignity make a commitment to nurture their own spiritual and emotional growth as well as their partners.



Enmeshed Relationships

A



Disengaged Relationships

H



Interdependent Relationships

M



**Parents, be careful not to project
your lives onto your children, nor
live through your children.**



Four Stages of Parenting

1. Discipline years (0-5)
2. Training years (5-12)
3. Coaching years (12-18)
4. Friendship years (19+)



Four Components of Parenting

1. Behavioural
2. Relational
3. Functional
4. Spiritual



**Your greatest contribution may
not be something you do, but
someone you raise.**



**Discipline with the goal of
preserving your relationship
not your reputation.**



Your Profession is to:

1. **Honor God** by reflecting and glorifying him
2. **Impact others**- at work and in community
3. **Provide**- for you and your family



Keep Jesus at the center
of your work, **purpose and
motivation** for succeeding and
foundation of your career



1 Corinthians 10:31

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do it all for the glory of God.**



Colossians 3:23-24

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were **working for the Lord rather than for people**. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the **Master you are serving is Christ**.



Hudson Taylor, the great 19th century missionary to China

A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in a
little this is a big thing to God.



In our relationships:

1. **Christ** is our MODEL
2. **Communication** is our METHOD
3. **Charity** is our MEANS/MOTIVE



MODEL

METHOD

**C
H
R
I
S
T**

COMMUNICATION
(ACTIONS, ATTITUDES, WORDS)



MOTIVE (MEANS)



Prayer

God, thank you for all the relationships you have given to me. Help me to value the people you have placed in my life.

Grant me grace to model Jesus in my actions, attitude and words by radiating your love. Transform our lives, marriages and families so that we can be a living reflection of hope to our world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.



