

**Marriage and Family: Enjoying The Journey**  
**301: Healthy Friends & Family / Part-1 Building Great Relationships**

**LESSON 8: Building Strong Marriages**

**Repentance**

**Confession**

**Forgiveness**

**Reconciliation**

**Restoration**

**Relational Dilemmas**

- God has created each person with a unique design
- God engineers circumstances that test and form our worldview
- God designs individual differences to strengthen relationships
- Very often differences generate conflicts
  - Our views are distorted by our sin nature
  - We malign God's creative purpose for others by finding fault with their differences

**Healthy Relationship Qualities**

- Seek complementary, not compatible relations
- Seek consensus, not compromise in decisions
- Giving is always better than getting
- Serving is always preferable to being served
- Reconciliation no matter what. Makes no difference who is right or wrong.
- Take adequate time to get acquainted

**Nurturing Healthy Relationships**

- Prevention is much better than repair
- Caring is better than curing
- Loving in truth is essential
- Understanding longings of self and others (casual, critical, crucial) – Dr. Larry Crabb
- Seeing and treating others as God does—the Golden Rule (Mt 7:12)

**Irreducible Minima**

- View others from God's perspective
- Love in truth (nothing hidden)
- Chose to always make right moral choice
- Be a reconciler (don't count rights & wrongs)
  - Don't argue over differences
  - Seek forgiveness and healing
  - Return blessings
  - Demonstrate gratitude to God for spouse

## RELATIONAL ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS

<b>MY WAY FLESH'S WAY SATAN'S WAY WORLD'S WAY</b>	<b>GOD'S WAY SPIRIT'S WAY CHRIST'S WAY TRINITY'S WAY</b>
Put self and idols before God and others	God first, others next, then self (Ps 37:4, Lk 10:27)
Take care of self	Take care of spouse and others (1 Tim 5:8, 1 Cor 12:24b-26)
Defend and protect self	Entrust God to protect you and your loved ones (1 Pet 1:3-5)
Claim my rights	Relinquish rights to God and others (Gal 5:24, Mt 16:24-25)
Get my way in situations	Seek God's way in everything (Prov 3:5-8, Is 55:9)
Protect my schedule	Be flexible with personal time and priorities (Hos 6:6, Prov 20:6)
Demand love from others	Love God and others in truth (1 Pet 1:22, 1 Jn 3:18) Love wife well (Eph 5:28, 33, Col 3:19) Love husband well (Titus 2:3-5)
Demand submission from another	Be supportive of one another. (Rom 12:16, 15:7, Gal 5:13, Eph 4:32, 5:21)
Fulfill my own expectations	Seek God's desires in your life and relationships (Ps 37:4)
Be vindicated and judged right in all situations	Promote harmony and unity in everything by leaning on the Lord's understanding (Prov 3:5-8, 1 Pet 3:8-12)
Get revenge for wrongs of others	Allow God to deal with the wrongs of others (Heb 10:30)
Be in control of each situation	Welcome and seek God's control of every situation (Mk 10:21, Gal 5:24, Heb 11:8)
Demand blessings from God and others	Be a blessing (1 Peter 3:8, 9)
Be cynical and selfish	Be grateful (Have an attitude of gratitude) (1 Chron 16:34, Ps 7:17, Phil 4:6-7, Rom 14:6)
Always seek more for yourself	Be content (1 Tim 6:6, Phil 4:11-13)
Attempt to fix everything yourself	Be abandoned to God for everything (2 Cor 5:14, Acts 20:24, Mt 6:25, Mk 1:17-18)
Get all you can and can all you get	Be generous as God is generous (Phil 4:19)
Doubt God's ability to do a thing in your life	Trust God in every situation and relationship (Dt 4:29, 1 Chron 28:9, Job 5:7-9, Ps 63:1, Dan 9:3, Heb 11:6)
Expect compatibility in marriage relationship	Promote complementary relationships in marriage (Eph 5:33)
Make decisions by compromise	Make consensus decisions (Mt 18:19, 1 Cor 1:9-10)
Hold grudges for offenses by others	Be a reconciler without regard for who is right or wrong (2 Cor 5:18-21, Mt 5:23-24, Mt 18:15-18)