

# ENJOYING RELATIONSHIPS

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## Summary:

We are all members of one body (the body of Christ, which is the church), and thus we belong to each other (Romans 12:5). Therefore, let us exercise faith and serve one another in love, putting the goals and interests of others above our own (HA#1).

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## ***Disciples who follow Jesus...***

- Commit themselves to loving “one another” as Christ demonstrated.  
*John 13:34-35*
- Humble themselves by putting the goals and interests of others above their own.  
*Philippians 2:4*
- Seek to serve God by using their unique spiritual gifts within the ministry.  
*1 Peter 4:10*

## **...Therefore, your commitments are:**

- Video Workshop (during group meeting) and Study Guide: “How to Enjoy Relationships in a Group: [Parts 1 & 2](#)” by Harold Bullock
- Complete the Workshop Questionnaires and share one observation from the questionnaire with your group
- Turn in the Workshop Questionnaires to your leader before leaving the group meeting
- Use the Word Study Method (found in the appendix) to study the Greek word “Koinonia” (Fellowship)
- Memorize the next section of the Bridge
- Memorize one of the following verses:
  - Hebrews 10:24-25 with Topic: Relationships
  - John 13:34-35 with Topic: Love
- Meditate HA #3 with supporting verse: Hebrews 3:13
- Record your Key Thought from this unit on the Action Plan page
- Spend significant time praying for the relationships in your life (family, friends, classmates, professors, etc.) during your Quiet Times this week. Let God lead you to whom he wants you to reach out to this week.

## **BEFORE MOVING ON:**

How can we glorify God by extending God’s grace to others when we don’t understand them, or they hurt us, or when we get angry?

# How to Enjoy Relationships In A Group

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GOAL: to get practical insight on how to do the things that make life in a group a source of enjoyment over the years.

## PART ONE

### 1. Put the goals and interests of others above your own

*Philippians 2:3-4; John 13:34-35; Philippians 2:20-21*

- There are going to be times you will have to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself for the sake of the group.
- When those times come
  - Temptation - exalt self - who do these people think they are. My stuff is more important than theirs. I refuse.
  - Instead - think of them as \_\_\_\_\_ than you - and help.
- Everyone has responsibilities that they must bear as an adult.  
*Galatians 6:5*
  - We need to take care of our own responsibilities.
  - Our care for others must recognize their responsibility to carry their own load.
- At the same time, there are times life becomes exceptionally burdensome and we need to step in to help. *Galatians 6:2*
- We need to meet the needs of others, yet keep healthy \_\_\_\_\_.
  - One person should not have to do all the sacrificing all the time - but you will probably have to do it more than you would wish.

### 2. Live An Honest, Open Life (Discretion with Integrity)

*Ephesians 4:25; I John 1:7; Leviticus 19:11; Ephesians 4:15*

- Since relationships are built on trust, lying or deceiving others in the group \_\_\_\_\_ building satisfying relationships.
- We are not looking for a regular "dirty laundry show."
  - The basic person inside should match the one presented on the outside.
  - There are private areas of life, but if questions need to be asked, even in the private areas, they can be.

### 3. Give and Receive Scriptural Correction

*Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:15*

- We desire 90% encouragement, 10 % correction. If you feel you must correct, you have \_\_\_\_\_ encouragements to go.
- Correction needs to be
  - Preceded by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Based on Scripture, not just your preference or ideas
  - Based on a pattern, not a single occurrence
  - Done to help improve, not to devastate

- If you feel you have a “prophetic” (corrective) ministry, check with those \_\_\_\_\_ to see if you are in balance.

#### 4. Clear Up Relationships

*Matthew 5:23-24; Ephesians 4:31-32; Acts 24:16; Philippians 4:2-3; Matthew 6:14-15; Romans 12:18*

- The \_\_\_\_\_ lies with you.
- If you are unsure if there is a problem, explore:
  - “I wonder if I have done something to offend you. If I have I certainly would like to make it right. Have I done something wrong or out of bounds?”
- When you realize you have done wrong, regardless of the other person’s response (right or wrong) to you, you need to ask forgiveness for what you did.
  - Don’t blame.
  - Don’t say “If I offended you, I’m sorry.”
  - Say “What I did was wrong. It was sin. Will you forgive me?” Then wait until they respond.
  - If you should make restitution, do so - pay back money, etc.
- If you are asked for forgiveness, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Forgiveness is a commitment not to blame the other person any more, to release them from blame, and to not bring up the matter and rehearse it in your own mind again.
  - Forgive and forget does not work.
  - You will occasionally remember the offense, but you must not dwell on it and the hurt from it.
  - When it comes up in your mind, declare out loud: That is forgiven. I will no longer think of it.
  - Then turn your mind to the greatness of God’s forgiveness of you.
- Because you \_\_\_\_\_, you are required to forgive.
  - If you do not forgive, God will deal with you with increasing severity over time.
- If the person will not forgive you, accept the situation and pray for them over time.
  - Make sure that the lack of forgiveness is not due to your attitude or refusal to make restitution.
- If the person is out of touch, pray for an opportunity and rehearse what \_\_\_\_\_ when the time comes. Take the opportunity when God provides. Do not commit confessions to writing (letter); a phone call or personal contact is better. Do not damage others in the way you ask forgiveness.

# How to Enjoy Relationships in a Group: Part One

## Workshop Questionnaire

Give specific answers to the following questions. Be sure to establish a goal for increasing your participation (Question #3) and share your plan with your group leader so they can pray for you and check in on your progress.

### **Put the goals and interests of others above my own.**

- 1) I have been failing to put the interests of others above my own by...
- 2) I have been putting the interests of others above my own by...
- 3) I plan to increase my participation in putting the interests of others above my own by...

### **Live an honest, open life before others**

- 1) I have been failing to live an honest, open life by...
- 2) I have been living an honest, open life by...
- 3) I plan to increase my participation in living an honest, open life by...

### **Give and receive Spiritual Correction.**

- 1) I have been failing to give and receive Scriptural correction by...
- 2) I have been giving and receiving Scriptural correction by...
- 3) I plan to increase my participation in giving and receiving Scriptural correction by...

### **Clear up relationships.**

- 1) I have been failing to clear up relationships by...
- 2) I have been clearing up relationships by...
- 3) I plan to increase my participation in clearing up relationships by...

# How to Enjoy Relationships In A Group

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GOAL: to get practical insight on how to do the things that make life in a group a source of enjoyment over the years.

## PART TWO

### 5. Participate in Ministry

*1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:16; Galatians 5:13; 1 John 3:16; 3:18; Ephesians 2:10 James 2:17-18; Titus 3:8*

- Pull your own weight.
  - If you have kids in the ministry, help out with kids' stuff.
  - If you are enjoying a group, help with dessert, cleanup, etc.
- Don't feel you are fulfilling your responsibilities simply by attending and praying occasionally.
- Over time, discover your gifting and leadership from God and major in those arenas.
- But stay open to help as needed.

### 6. Support The Work Financially

*2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Leviticus 27:30; Luke 11:42; Hebrews 7:1-2; Proverbs 11:25*

- When our financial priorities are out of line, God

\_\_\_\_\_ our income.

*Haggai 1:5-7; Malachi 3:10-11*

- Start with a percentage and trust God.
- Increase it as fast as possible.
- You have a responsibility to help \_\_\_\_\_ the vocational workers in the church.  
*1 Timothy 5:17-18; Galatians 6:6*

### 7. Follow Spiritual Leadership Within Scriptural Limits

*Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5-8*

- God is the one who establishes authority and defines its jurisdictions. *Romans 13:1-7*
  - One is to "put himself at the direction of" legitimate authority.
  - To oppose legitimate authority is to oppose God and face the consequences.
- God creates overseers who are to shepherd (pastor) his people. *Acts 20:28*

The Role Of These Leaders:

- Shepherds: Supervise, (\_\_\_\_\_) the work of the church. *1 Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28*  
POIMAINO (poy-mah.-ee-no); to tend as a shepherd of; to feed, to tend a flock, to keep sheep, used of Rulers, to rule, govern, (figuratively, supervisor): KJV - feed, rule.  
Supervise (Eng) : to have or exercise the charge and oversight of : DIRECT.
- Overseers: See that things done by others are done rightly.  
(\_\_\_\_\_)  
*1 Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28*

EPISKOPEO (ep-ee-skop-eh.-o); to oversee; to look upon, to inspect, to oversee, to look after, to care for; by implication, to beware: KJV. look diligently, take the oversight.

EPISKOPOS (ep-is.-kop-os); an overseer, a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly, any curator, guardian or superintendent; The Christian officer in charge of a (or the) church, the Superintendent, elder, or overseer of a group of Christians: KJV - bishop, overseer

- Managers: Preside over the church and its members.

*1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 3:4-5*

PROISTEMI (pro-is.-tay-mee); to stand before; to be over, to superintend, to preside over: KJV - maintain, be over, rule.

- Leaders: Lead the church and its members.

*Hebrews 13:17*

HEGEOMAI (hayg-eh.-om-ahee); to lead, i.e. command (with official authority), to rule, to have authority over, to be the chief spokesman: KJV- account, (be) chief, count, esteem, governor, judge, have the rule over, suppose, think.

- You see how this works out in Acts 6:1-7.
- So how does one “submit to leaders”?

**Hebrews 13:17** “Obey (PEITHO) your leaders (HEGOMAI) and submit (HUPEIKO) to their authority. They keep watch (AGRUPNEO) over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy (CHARA), not a burden (STENAZO), for that would be of no advantage to you.” (NIV)

1. Accept their position as leaders, direction-setters,

\_\_\_\_\_  
HEGEOMAI- (hayg-eh.-om-ahee); to lead, to go before; to rule, to command, to have authority over; used of any kind of leader, a chief, a commander.

2. Be \_\_\_\_\_. Raise questions and give input, but don’t be an anchor-dragger.

PEITHO - (pi.-tho); be persuaded; to suffer oneself to be persuaded; to be induced to believe: to have faith (in a thing); to listen to, to obey, to yield to, to comply with.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ authority if a difference of opinion continues.

HUPEIKO-(hoop-i.-ko); to resist no longer, but to give way, to yield (of combatants); metaphorically, to yield to authority and admonition, to submit.

- In addition

- Make every effort for \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Ephesians 4:1-3*
- Speak the same \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 1:10** “Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree (LEGO AUTOS), and there be no divisions (SCHISMA) among you, but you be made complete (KATARTIZO) in the same mind (AUTOS NOUS) and in the same judgment (AUTOS GNOME).” (NAS)

- LEGO (leg.-o); to say, to speak.
- AUTOS (ow-tos.)1) himself, herself, themselves, itself; 2) he, she, it; 3) the same.
- KATARTIZO (kat-ar-tid.-zo); to complete thoroughly, i.e. repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust: KJV - fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect (-ly join together), prepare, restore.

- NOUS (nooce); 1) the mind, comprising alike the faculties of perceiving and understanding and those of feeling, judging, determining; 2) a particular mode of thinking and judging, that is, thoughts, feelings, purposes, desires.
- GNOME (gno.-may); 1) the faculty of knowledge, mind, reason 2) what is thought or known, one's mind, including a view, judgment, opinion concerning what ought to be done.

**2 Corinthians 13:11** “*Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind (AUTOS PHRONEO), live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.*” (NIV)

- PHRONEO (fron-eh.-o); -1) to have understanding, to be wise 2) to feel, to think, esp. to be of the same mind, that is, agreed together, to cherish the same views, to be harmonious.
- Do all without \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- *Philippians 2:14-15*
- The consequences of rebellion: \_\_\_\_\_.
- *1 Corinthians 10:8-12*
- SEE: *Numbers 12:1-14; 16:1-50; 2 Samuel 15:1-6; 18:14-15*
- If a person is repeatedly divisive, they are to be put out of the church. *Titus 3:10-11*
- The earmarks of God-approved plans (strategies).

**James 3:17** “*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure (HAGNOS); then peace-loving (EIRENIKOS), considerate (EPIEIKES), submissive (EUPEITHES), full of mercy (ELEOS) and good (AGATHOS) fruit, impartial (ADIAKRITOS) and sincere (ANUPOKRITOS).*”

**v. 18** “*Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*”

- HAGNOS (hag-nos.): properly, clean, i.e. (figuratively) innocent, modest.
- EIRENIKOS (i-ray-nee-kos.): peaceable, pacific, loving peace.
- EPIEIKES (ep-ee-i-kace.): appropriate, i.e. (by implication) mild.
- EUPEITHES (yoo-pi-thace.): good for persuasion, easily obeying, compliant.
- ELEOS (el.-eh-os): compassion; kindness or good will toward the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them.
- AGATHOS (ag-ath-os.): “good” good, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy, excellent, distinguished, upright, honorable.
- ADIAKRITOS (ad-ee-ak.-ree-tos): properly, undistinguished; impartial, without dubiousness, ambiguity, or uncertainty.
- ANUPOKRITOS - unfeigned, undisguised, sincere.

# How to Enjoy Relationships in a Group: Part Two

## Workshop Questionnaire

Give specific answers to the following questions. Be sure to establish a goal for increasing your participation (Question #3) and share your plan with your group leader so they can pray for you and check in on your progress.

### **Participate in the Ministry**

- 1) I have been failing to participate in the ministry by...
- 2) I have been participating in the ministry by...
- 3) I plan to increase my participation in the ministry by...

### **Support the work financially**

- 1) I have been failing to support the work financially by...
- 2) I have been supporting the work financially by...
- 3) I plan to increase my participation in supporting the work financially by...

### **Follow spiritual leadership within Scriptural limits and make it a joy for them**

- 1) I have been failing to follow spiritual leadership and make it a joy for them by...
- 2) I have been following spiritual leadership within Scriptural limits and make it a joy for them by...
- 3) I plan to increase my participation in following spiritual leadership within Scriptural limits and make it a joy for them by...