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## ***Caring – Focusing on Those That Matter the Most: The Key to Great Relationships***

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, April 30, 2017*

I Create the Life I Want

### **The 3 Relationships We All Struggle With**

A Relationship with God

A Relationship with Self

A Relationship with Others

These All Have One Thing in Common – ME!

Relationships Fail Because They Will Inevitably Hit the Relationship Wall and We Are Not Willing to Pay the Price of Dismantling the Wall to Get to The Other Side

We All Have Areas of Selfishness That We Are Afraid to Sacrifice

**The Key to Great Relationships:** Give Your Life Away

I Can Be Different

**Jesus Is Our Example**

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” *Mark 10:45, NLT*

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." *John 10:11–18, ESV*

## **Jesus Commands Sacrificial Love and Commends Total Sacrifice**

"My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them." *John 15:12–13, GNB*

## **Jesus Reveals the Key to Fulfillment**

"If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it." *Matthew 10:38–39, NLT*

Carrying Your Cross Is the Symbol of Accepting Someone's  
Absolute Power Over You

Giving My Life Away Is the Pattern of The Kingdom of God

Father Help Me Be the Man / Woman I Need to Be in My Important Relationships. To Surrender My Selfishness Willingly. To Be Thoughtful of Others and To Be Genuinely Concerned About Their Interests. To Be Willing to Listen to Their Wants, Needs, and Desires. To Find Ways of Making Their Dreams Come True. Help Me Father to Give My Life

Away Building Them Up and Helping Them Become the Person You Want Them to Be. Above All, Help Me Pray with Them and Over Them So That Our Relationship Glorifies You. In Jesus Name, Amen