
Caring – Focusing on Those That Matter the Most: Making My Most Important Relationships Safe

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, May 7, 2017*

How Do You Heal a Fractured Life and a Fractured Relationship?
You Bring ALL of Christ Into It

“Those who come to me cannot be my disciples unless they love me more than they love father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and themselves as well. Those who do not carry their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciples.”
Luke 14:26–27, GNB

The First Obligation of a Disciple of Christ Is WHOLEHEARTEDNESS

“And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.” **John 13:34–35, GNB**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second most important commandment is this: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ There is no other commandment more important than these two.” **Mark 12:30–31, GNB**

Do the Important People in My Life Feel Safe with Me?

Am I Accessible?

Are You There When I Need You?

Am I Responsive?

Can I Count on You to Help Me – To Move Towards Me When I Need You?

Am I Emotionally Engaged?

Can I Count on You to Be Emotionally Present and Caring in Our Relationship?

In All Relationships We Either Move:

Toward

Away

At

According to the Bible, How I Treat Others – How I Demonstrate Their Value by My Actions – Reflects My True Self and How Well I Am Living Wholeheartedly for Christ

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,” *Philippians 2:3–10, ESV*

1. Do Nothing from Selfish Ambition or Conceit
2. In Humility Count Others More Significant Than Yourself

I Am Not Who I Say I Am

I Am Who I Demonstrate Who I Am

3. What Comes First? My Interests or Others?

It Does Not Matter How Successful I Am in The World

If I Fail in My Closest Relationships

4. Have the Mind of Christ

Mind = Attitude

But How Do I Do This If Is Not the Way I Was Raised?

Go to the Source and Ask

Dear Jesus, help me be the Man / Woman my (Name the Relationship) needs me to be. To put them first before my needs, wants and desires. To act in ways that they need from me so they can see and understand my love for them.

Jesus, Be Lord of this relationship. Help me to serve you by serving them. I commit to do (*Name the Action*) as a sign of my commitment to live different so I can honor you. In Your name I pray, Amen