

## SERIES graphic

### Paradox of Relationships:

- Highest hopes
- Deepest hurts

Most of us just sort of “do” relationships our way.

1) There is something setting the **potential** for relationships.

### The P's of Relational Potential:

- Personality
- Past
- Preferences (and pet peeves)
- Promise
- Problems (drama & trauma)

Whatever sets the bar, also sets us up for disappointment.

2) The principle of the **harvest** applies to our relationships.

### Galatians 6:7

Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person **sows** he will also **reap** ...

We are always living in the middle of our own harvest.

3) There are **default** relational responses that we all carry around with us.

- *Instinctive; second nature*
- *Adaptive vs at home*

We tend to respond **sinfully** to the **sinners** in our lives.

### Philippians 3:20-21

Our **citizenship is in heaven**, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of His glorious body, by the power that enables Him to subject everything to Himself.

### Philippians 4:1

So then, **my dearly loved and longed for** brothers and sisters, **my joy and crown**, in this manner stand firm in the Lord, **dear friends**.

*{one slide; all together}*

Paul: the value and potential of human community & relationships.

- *dearly loved & longed for ... dear friends*
- *my joy & crown*

### Philippians 4:1

... in this manner **stand firm in the Lord** ...

Our relationship **to Christ** affects our relationships **with others**.

→ **Resets the potential** ... raises the bar for those relationships.

From resurrection hope to relational mess:

- Never tells us the actual problem ...
- He moves the problem to the peripheral ...

### Philippians 4:2-3

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to **agree in the Lord**. <sup>3</sup>Yes, I also ask you, true partner, to help these women who have **contended for the gospel** at my side, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the book of life.

The horizontal problem is subordinated to their vertical position in Christ.

In the Lord, their **potential** is greater than their **problem**!

### INVITATION TODAY:

- Reset the potential of your relationships
  - Problems → peripheral
  - Christ → central

### AGREEMENTS:

- What is currently setting the potential for your relationships?
- Has something other than Christ set the bar ... set the potential?

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We do not have what it takes!

IN us ...? IN our situation? vs IN the LORD

### Philippians 4:4

**Rejoice** in the Lord always. I will say it again: **Rejoice**!

What we have IN the Lord must always be **greater and weightier** than what we have in our relationships with others.

- 1) We avoid the **pressure trap** of relationships.
- 2) We avoid **idolatry** in relationships.

Because we are happy in the Lord (~fullness from the Lord) ...

- We are not looking for other people to make us happy.
- We are not holding other people hostage to our expectations.
- We are not easily offended.
- We are quick to forgive.

*{can use multiple slide; keep bullet points together and include name/title on each slide}*

**Charles Spurgeon:**

- *I am glad that we do not know what the quarrel was about ...*
- *As a cure for disagreements, the apostle says, 'Rejoice in the Lord always.' People who are very happy, especially those who are very happy in the Lord, are not apt either to give offense or to take offense.*
- *Their minds are so sweetly occupied with higher things, that they are not easily distracted by the little troubles which naturally arise among such imperfect creatures as we are.*
- *Joy in the Lord is the cure for all discord.*

**\*\*New **potential** → produces new **responses** and thus a new **harvest!****

**Philippians 4:5**

Let your **graciousness** (*gentleness; reasonableness; patience; kindness*) be known to everyone. The Lord is **near**.

There are (or should be and/or can be) **THREE PEOPLE** involved in every relationship.