

CONNECTED - Because Life Is a Team Sport
Message #5 "Some Maintenance Required"
Ephesians 4
June 6, 2010

*Eph. 4:1-4 "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ **Make every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

Eph. 4:16 "From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Key Idea: The most committed relationship still needs ongoing maintenance.

Four Ongoing Areas for Relational Maintenance

1. _____ - Vs. 12, 16, 29

Eph. 4:12-13 "...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Eph. 4:16 "From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Eph. 4:29-30 "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Really interesting word- Oikodomeen =

Notice Paul's relational opposites:

_____ VS. _____

_____ VS. _____

_____ VS. _____

2. _____ - vs. 15, 25

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ." vs. ¹⁵

"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body." vs. 25

Communication involves five important ingredients

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____

3. _____ - vs. 26-27, 30-32

Eph. 4:26-27 "In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold."

Eph. 4:30-32 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Heb. 12:14-15 "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

Notice the pattern:

- _____ anger- vs. 26
- _____ anger- vs. 26
- _____ anger- vs. 27
- _____ anger- vs. 31
- _____ anger- vs. 31

4. _____ - vs. 20-24

"You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. 21 Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." Psalm 127:1