



Real Life Relationships!
How do we relate in love with those we disciple?



A real-life relationship is when you give someone the right to know everything about you and they give you the right to know everything about them.

This includes your thoughts, emotions, beliefs, values, personal failures, and sins.



We believe Real Life Relationships are the rails that the engine of effective discipleship travels on to reach the destination of spiritual maturity.

In this series, we are learning from the life of Jesus what we need to do to form Real Life Relationships with others.

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We have learned that....

1. Jesus was generous with His time with His disciples
2. Jesus was transparent with His disciples
3. Jesus was intentional about knowing His disciples
 - Jesus asked meaningful questions
 - Jesus was a good listener

4. Jesus comforted His disciples
5. Jesus shared the gospel with His disciples

John 3:14-21

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

NKJV

How is sharing the gospel important to real life relationships?

Genesis 2:18

18 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

NKJV

In the beginning, when God created man, there was only one time that God said what He had created was not good. God said, it is not good for man to be alone.

God designed mankind to have a real-life relationship with Him and with one another.

What God said about mankind before the fall was still important after the fall and even more important. Life was going to be a lot more difficult.

But sin had a profound effect upon the soul of mankind. It caused guilt and shame. The result of guilt and shame is that we are not real with God or with one another.

We see this in Adam and Eve after they sinned.

Genesis 3:7-11

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

NKJV

Having experienced the knowledge of good and evil, they saw that they were naked, and they were ashamed. Instead of being real with God, they hid themselves from God and from one another.

Guilt and shame caused mankind to withdraw from God and from one another. God said it is not good for mankind to be alone and Satan lead mankind to be alone.

Satan knew that He could control mankind if mankind was alone. The story of Cain and Abel is the first story after the fall. Cain was offended because his gift to God was rejected and Abel's was accepted. Cain was alone in his guilt and shame. No one knew how he felt. No one knew what he thought. No one knew what he believed. No one knew His plan or any of these things other than God and Cain was not being honest with God. He concluded that killing brother would make him feel better.

Mankind has been like Adam, Eve, and Cain ever since. We don't have real life relationship with God or with one another because of our guilt and shame. Because of our guilt and shame, we start keeping secrets as a child. No one really knows everything we feel, what we desire, or what we do. Because of our guilt and shame, we do not want anyone to really know us. Our solution is to isolate ourselves and find our own remedies for our guilt and shame. We learn to perform. We learn to make excuses for our failures. We learn to blame others. We learn to medicate our feelings. But the result is always the same for everyone. We feel alone. We feel like nobody really knows us because they do not. We are afraid that no one would love us if they knew what we are really like. We may let down our guard with someone and then we get hurt. Those experiences only drive us deeper into isolation and feeling alone. For us to ever have real life relationships, something must be done about our guilt and shame.

When Adam and Eve felt guilt and shame because of their nakedness, God killed an animal and covered them with the skin.

Genesis 3:21

21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin and clothed them.

NKJV

This was certainly not a complete solution to their guilt and shame, but it revealed His heart, His understanding of the problem that kept mankind from Him and from one another, and His future plans. God would cover mankind's guilt and shame.

God's way to cover the guilt and shame of mankind was for His Son to bear the guilt and shame of mankind's sin.

Isaiah 53

53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.

3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4 Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

9 And they made His grave with the wicked — But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

11 He shall see the labor of His soul and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.
NKJV

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Romans 8:1-2

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

NKJV

Jesus died for the sins of the world and bore the guilt and shame of the sins of the whole world so that you and I can have a real-life relationship with God and with one another.

I cannot comprehend what the emotional pain of Jesus was like. Medical science can explain the physical pain that Jesus endured but no one can explain the emotional pain Jesus experienced while He was on the cross. We do know bearing the guilt and shame of the world caused Him to feel alone because He asked, "My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?"

There is only one way to do away with the guilt and shame that keeps us from being real with God and with one another and that one way is through Jesus Christ.

To be free of guilt and shame have a real-life relationship with God and others, you must know that the debt for your sin has been paid in full.

If you were my friend and you loaned me money, if I was late on my payments, I would experience guilt and shame. I would not want to see you or talk to you even though you were my friend. But if I knew that the debt was paid in full, I would be free from guilt and shame and we could be friends again.

If you were my friend and I sinned against you and really hurt you, I would experience guilt and shame. I would not want to see you or talk to you even though you were my friend. But if I knew that my sin debt was paid in full and you had forgiven me, I would be free from guilt and shame and we could be friends again.

If I knew that you knew that my sin debt was paid in full for every sin I have ever committed and ever would commit, I could be completely transparent with you and tell you everything about myself without any fear of condemnation.

To have a real-life relationship with God and others, I must know that God and others are not holding my sin against me. I must know that I am not condemned.

We can't avoid having feelings of guilt and shame when we sin or when we fail. Satan will make sure we have those feelings because he wants to isolate us. He wants us to be alone with our sin. He wants to control us.

But by believing that Jesus Christ paid the debt for our sins, we can overcome those feelings and have a real-life relationship with God and with one another.

To have a real-life relationship with God and others we must believe the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To lead others into real life relationship we must share the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Put up new boxes)

There is no other way. There is no other remedy for the problem of guilt and shame.

Here is what can happen if we will believe the gospel of Jesus Christ, share the gospel of Jesus Christ, and start developing real life relationships with others.

People are hungry for real life relationship with God and with others.



Over the last few years, based on the gospel of Jesus Christ, I developed a real-life relationship with these three men; Brandon Werner, Dan Woska, and Thomas Hill.

With the support of their wives, based on the gospel of Jesus Christ, these three men are developing real life relationships with others that are hungry for real life relationships with God and with others.

Based on the gospel of Jesus Christ, I also developed real life relationship with Doug Miller. Based on the gospel of Jesus Christ, this last week, Doug Miller and Greg Werner started a new group for men to have real life relationship with one another.



This is Sandra and my current small group. Based on the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are developing real life relationships with one another.

Pat is the name of this lady in this picture. Last week she sent me a text that said....
"Jerry, thank you for sharing. The lessons I have learned in our group have saved me from deep depression and sadness. It's so important to have your tribe/village. We weren't met to walk alone."

Jesus made this tribe and village possible. We are a safe place to have a real-life relationship because Jesus paid it all.

Will you receive Jesus?

If you have received Jesus, will you enter real life relationship with God and others because Jesus paid it all?