

Personal Tune-up for 2007

Tuning Up My Relationships ~ February 11, 2007

God has a balanced view of me - God knows that I sin - *Everyone has sinned.... Romans chapter 3 verse 23 (859)*

- God knows my potential is GREAT - ***I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.***
Philippians chapter 4 verse 13 (901)
- God accepts & loves me as I am! He knows I'm not perfect, so He forgives me each & every time I ask! As a Christ-follower, God gave me the Holy Spirit & he expects me to keep growing & learning until the day I die

A Balanced View & My Friends: Don't suffocate your friends! - ***Don't visit your neighbors too often, or you will wear out your welcome.*** *Proverbs chapter 25 verse 17 (499)*

- I need to distinguish between "friendly people" & my true friends! - ***There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.*** *Proverbs chapter 18 verse 24 (494)*
- Each of my friends influences me-***As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.*** *Proverbs chapter 27 verse 17*
- Each of us can only be close to a few people...choose wisely

A Balanced View & My Spouse: My spouse is not God - ***You must not have any other God but me. ...for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God....*** *Exodus chapter 20 verses 3-4 (59)*

- God never intended my spouse to meet all of my needs for love, security, belonging, joy, purpose, significance, etc
- Never forget that God alone is God, and allows his love, security, belonging, joy, etc. to flow thru others
- Each of us who are married need our spouse + friends
- God is still at work in my spouse - ***I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus returns.*** *Philippians chapter 1 verse 6 (899)*
- The best thing I could do for my spouse is to live the life God wants from me & pray for them. This puts my spouse in the best possible place to experience God's best for him/her
- Don't nag, manipulate or control people. Remember, growth & maturity is God's work

A Balanced View & My Kids: My kids have a HUGE potential to live for God...and God expects them to realize this potential - ***And you (parents) must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you (parents) must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children.*** *Deuteronomy chapter 6 verses 5-7 (144)*

- My kids don't belong to me! - ***Children, obey your parents because you (kids) belong to the Lord....***
Ephesians chapter 6 verse 1 (898)

God Desires Communication with Me - God communicates with me in a variety of ways...the Bible, the Holy Spirit, other people, etc. Jesus is "the Word," The Bible is "the Word of God"

- God never punishes me by shutting down communication between us, he never refuses to listen to me
- God realizes that communication is a key in our relationship - ***I love the Lord because He hears my voice and my prayers for mercy. Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!*** *Psalms 116:1-2 (467)*

Communication & My Friends: A friend speaks truth and gives good advice...even when it hurts - ***The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.*** *Proverbs chapter 12 verse 26 (489)*

- ***Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.*** *Proverbs chapter 17 verse 9*
- Know when to keep your mouth shut! Don't nit-pick everything! Know how to keep confidences!

True Biblical Forgiveness is...

- A broken spirit that acknowledges the wrong / hurt, humility that acknowledges / owns my sin (doesn't blame it on others, excuse it away), a true change of heart, not a change of convenience, an acknowledgment & acceptance of the consequences of my sin and a willingness to deal honestly with them, a commitment to live differently in this area (commitment does not equal perfection!)

Communication & My Spouse - Together, read thru the "Song of Songs" in the Bible

- I must find out how my spouse is "wired" - what pleases, shuts my spouse down. Talk about ALL areas of your relationship; never declare ANY area off limits! Act on what you find out, discover
- Eat dinner together, go for walks together. Regular dates are a must (take turns arranging for the baby-sitter)
- Don't believe "we can't afford this." They don't have to be expensive, only regular. You can't afford not to do this
- ***The words of the godly are a life-giving fountain....*** *Proverbs chapter 10 verse 11 (487)*
- LEARN to communicate, PRACTICE communicating, read books, see a counselor, make it a priority, do whatever is necessary to grow in this area. More than just about any other area, communication will make or break your marriage!

Communication & My Kids: Communication with them is dead without relationship!

- I must take the time to build relationship with my kids
- I must know how my kids are “relationally wired”
- I must give my kids my full attention when they are speaking
- I must walk my talk and be real about when I mess up!

Communication:

- **A truly wise person uses few words....** Proverbs chapter 17 verse 27 (493)
- *Rob's translation: People who talk much aren't wise!*
- Keep your mouth closed. It's harder to get into trouble when your lips are closed
- Remember, only about 15% of your communication is verbal, so watch your body language!
- Complement your loved ones excessively! People become what you say!

God Pursued Reconciliation with Me

- God is perfect and He has the same standard for me - *Jesus said, “You are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.”* Matthew chapter 5 verse 48 (737)
- **God is always ready to forgive me - If we confess our sins to God, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins....** 1 John chapter 1 verse 9 (941)
- God calls me to live according to his standard, and he is always ready to forgive me when I don't measure up
- God doesn't sweep my faults under the rug or excuse them away
- God doesn't make me crawl to Him on my hands & knees
- God is the driving force in my reconciliation...he is not passive here!!

Reconciliation & My Friends - I must choose my friends very carefully - **Putting confidence in an unreliable person...is like chewing with a broken tooth or walking on a lame foot.** Proverbs chapter 25 verse 19 (499)

- Know what is worth fighting for - **An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.** Proverbs chapter 18 verse 19 (494)

Reconciliation & My Spouse - **Get rid of ALL bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.** Ephesians chapter 4 verses 31 & 32 (897)

- When I'm truly repentant, Jesus forgives all my sin. He never mistreats me, never takes advantage of me, always speaks the truth in love, always does what is best for me, always loves me sacrificially & unconditionally
- Is this how I treat my spouse??

Reconciliation & My Kids - **Have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those He loves....”** Hebrews chapter 12 verses 5 & 6 (928)

- Most of us find little or no encouragement in discipline, because most of us don't understand what discipline is!
- “discipline” literally means to educate or train
- It has NOTHING to do with inflicting pain!
- God loves me too much to ignore my sin & allow me to keep living life in a destructive way!!!
- Parents who love their kids discipline their kids...this is the job of a loving parent!
- Discipline is useless without relationship
- Make sure your kids know that you love them but not their behavior / actions
- Don't hold a grudge or give the “silent treatment” - be direct!
- Catch your kids being good / doing right and make a big deal about it
- Never discipline kids out of anger or embarrassment! Remember, true discipline means I educate / train. It has nothing to do with inflicting pain!

God's Love for Me is Balanced

- **God showed how much He loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love.”** 1 John chapter 4 verses 9 & 10 (943)
- God's love for me is real. It doesn't give me everything I want, but it always does what is best for me

Next week: Tuning Up My Finances