

SATURDAY & SUNDAY Discipleship Guide

Message Title: *"Flowing Together"*

Series: *"Family Matters"* | Week of June 11-17, 2017

Main thought:

Our most precious relationships flow together because we understand our roles, respect boundaries, refrain from control and over reach, and intentionally practice empathy – putting ourselves in the other person's shoes by trying to see and feel issues from their perspective. The challenge here involves listening *before* speaking and listening *more* than speaking.

That being said, because all family level relationships go through difficult seasons that threaten to pull us apart, there is the need to navigate tough conversations. A few of the important considerations:

- It matters *that* you say "it": Don't avoid the issues because a cover up now will lead to a blow up later.
- It matters *how* you say "it": be clear on the issue, careful with the person. Proverbs says *"A gentle answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger."*
- It matters *when* you say "it": pick the time best for all parties.
- It matters *who* says, "it": sometimes a third party becomes the best voice and can help clarify issues with objectivity and far less emotion.

Remember that empathy produces connectivity. Jesus not only felt for us, but He literally took our place, paid the punishment for our sins on the cross, and reunited us to God. It is by calling on God and leaning on His grace that we find the ability to flow together with others.

Main passages:

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her..." (Ephesians 5:22-25 ESV)

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:15-16 ESV)

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” (James 1:19-20 ESV)

“If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.” (Proverbs 18:13 ESV)

Reflection:

- What especially stands out to you from the main thought and Bible passages?

Application:

- Talk about a time when you were able to apply today’s discussion to a real life situation. What happened, what did you learn, and how has it shaped you?
- What is one take away from today’s discussion that you feel that you need to improve on the most?

Group Prayer:

- Pray for God to empower you afresh to work through relationships that seem to be growing apart.
- Pray for God to touch a specific friend or loved one to respond to your invitation to group or church. Pray that they would come to know Christ personally.
- Pray for any serious needs a group member may have.

Upcoming Event:

We will be hosting the Global Leadership Summit on Thursday, August 10 and Friday, August 11, 2017. Use promo code: PHS17TEAM for all Pearlside members to receive the discounted price of \$89.