

Health Through Relationships

Part three of the series, "Thrive: Spiritual Health in Times of Crisis"

Sunday, August 16, 2020 | Pastor Norman Nakanishi

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.'" (John 15:9-17 ESV)

Relational health with God is directly tied to healthy relationships with PEOPLE.

"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love... ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you... ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you." (v.10, 12, 14)

"...For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister." (1 John 4:20-21 NIV)

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." (Romans 12:18 NIV)

God calls us to love even if it COSTS.

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (v. 13)

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:3-4 ESV)

Love develops as we SERVE and support others.

"Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'" (Luke 10:31-35 ESV)

"...through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:13-14 ESV)

Intentionally loving others produces the fruit and FAVOR of God.

"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." (v. 10, 16)