

INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL REALATIONSHIPS

PowerPoint with Verbal Seminar by James Roberts (CCBT)

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Notes Taken and Verbal Sermon by Tom Ecker

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SLIDE 01 — INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL REALATIONSHIPS:

Let's consider our title together. Each of these words has a specific meaning and is used in this message intentionally. Before we begin, let's have a prayer to prepare our hearts.

The word intention is a noun and is defined as 1) determination to act in a specific way 2) anything intended; purpose. The word intentional is an adjective and means done purposely. Therefore what we do in an INTENTIONAL way is **done purposely**. Yes, — we all have good intentions but a chasm is often there between our actual conduct and our intentions showing that we can improve on our intended purpose in life.

How about the word spiritual? First let's consider the word that spiritual comes from. That word is spirit and is a noun which defined includes 1 a) the life principle, especially in human beings b) soul (sense) 2 life, will, thought, etc., regarded as separate from matter 3 disposition; mood 4 vivacity, courage, etc 5 enthusiastic loyalty [school spirit] 6 real meaning [the spirit of the law] 7 a pervading animating principle or quality [the spirit of the times]. Spiritual is an adjective and means 1 of the spirit or the soul 2 of or consisting of spirit; not corporeal 3 of religion, sacred. **Therefore what we do that is SPIRITUAL is the one thing that we do in our life that will endure.**

The definition of relationships comes from the word relation. Relation is a noun that is defined as 1 a narrating 2 a narrative; account 3 connection, as in thought and meaning 4 connection by blood or marriage 5 a relative 6 [plural] the connections between or among persons, nations, etc. in (or with) relation to concerning; regarding — relationships. Therefore, RELATIONSHIPS can be very broad (with many) or very narrow (with a few). We might know a thousand people but how many do we have a

meaningful personal spiritual relationship with on a daily or weekly basis?

And putting the three words together [INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS] brings us to this question. How many people are we in an **intentional spiritual relationship** where we are teaching them about Christ or how many people are we bringing to faith in Christ? The focus today is moving from “old school” mentoring to “new school” life coaching.

SLIDE 02 — INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL REALATIONSHIPS:

What does our culture communicate about relationship? 1) Accomplishments are more important 2) We live fast... relationships take too long 3) We relate image-to-image 4) Long-term commitments don't last 5) Reveal who you are and it will be used against you 6) Do what's best for you... just don't mean to hurt. Lets take a look at this in our culture. **Today**, people say that a **personal relationship** is about having things or titles and those things and titles communicate what people value — people say that the image of who I am is all you are going to get. — people say that a contract is what is important not a covenant before God — people who are not spiritual will even use scriptures to validate what it is that they want (scripture is seldom used in context). **Today**, people like to meet in social groups where pure surface imaging is done (bars, etc.). **Today**, do we know a person or do we know what they believe? **Today**, often relationships can be done with lots of people in a group by typing a few words back and forth with people that you have never met. **Today**, most communication lacks deep communication with another person because most people want an EASY EXIT STRATEGY. Sadly, **today**, the value of persons is based on the stuff (positions, titles, possessions, accumulations) we or they have. So, is that an intentional spiritual relationship?

Let's see what scripture says. Scripture exalts 1) loving and being loved; 2) Authentic relationships that only take place in God; 3) Obedience (to the Triune God) and loyalty to Him that gives evidence of authentic relationships and this equals **true life-long, eternal relationships.**

SLIDE 03 — INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL REALATIONSHIPS:

We were created for relationship... consider the initial connection processes

Gen. 1:26 – “Let us make man in our...”

Gen. 2:18 – “It is not good...”

Gen. 2:24 – “Therefore a man shall leave...” allowing them to focus on a future family

SLIDE 04 – INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL REALATIONSHIPS:

Christ outlines three vital relationships... John 15

John 15

1-11: Believers to Christ (*Connection*)

12-17: Believers to One Another (*Growth*)

18-25: Believers to the World (*Service*)

Christ modeled a progression of relationships!

SLIDE 05 – INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL REALATIONSHIPS:

John 15:1-11: Believers to Christ (*Connection*)

Jesus uses the metaphor that He is the true vine and we are branches. He says ‘abide (remain) in Me... and I in you’. He says that every branch that bears fruit He will prune so it will bear more fruit... and He says we cannot bear fruit unless we are abiding in Him. And He says that when we are bearing fruit we are glorifying the Father! He says He told them this so they would have complete joy.

Presenter James Roberts loves to read Christian biographies and loves to read the last chapter first. In each biography, James see where the person first solidified their connection to God the Father; then became a disciple of Jesus Christ and then embraced being a witness of Jesus Christ in the person of the Holy Spirit. Real relationships move forward in the persons of the TRINITY not outside of the triune God.

SLIDE 06 – INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL REALATIONSHIPS:

John15:12-17: Believers to One Another (*Growth*)

Christ transitions, ‘this is My commandment that you love one another as I have loved you’. He says ‘no longer servants but

friends’... ‘I chose and appointed you’... ‘go and bear fruit and that fruit will abide’... and His promise, ‘ so that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give it to you’. “These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

Presenter James Roberts shared how Jesus said, “All I have learned I have made known to you” – this is truly a great point in real spiritual relationships.

SLIDE 07 – INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL REALATIONSHIPS:

John 15:18-25: Believers to the World (Service)
Christ says that, because He chose us, the world (the culture around us) is going to hate us just like it hates Him. “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.” Jesus is consistent through all of His teachings that our love for Him will compel us to be a witness, through our abiding fruit, to a dying world.

Presenter James Roberts shared why this is extremely important. Why share CHRIST with a dying world (why? prisoners of the evil one).

SLIDE 08 – INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL REALATIONSHIPS:

Christ modeled a progression from relationship to Realationship...

The multitudes on the mount

The 12 that He called

The 3 that He more intentionally spent time with

Presenter James Roberts shared that Jesus Christ shared HIS Authenticity/HIS Transparency/HIS Real Life with the three CLOSEST DISCIPLES. James asked, “Who is that in my Life?” In the past or the present, “Who would say my name?” and “Who are we pouring our life into?” Authenticity is the first step. The way to authenticity is walking the scriptures. James had seven siblings so a total of eight children who have now had a total of 24 marriages between them. James and his wife are the only ones who are not divorced.

*Authenticity has a price and it's price is based on value. What is the value price? Authenticity plus being vulnerable in relationships equals the value price . Key: Don't wear masks. James has cried in the arms of his wife and he has apologized to his kids. Remember, being REAL is the only thing that will last but that requires us to be vulnerable and it starts first in our home by BEING REAL with one another. No real family has barriers (see **Psalm 101**). Boundaries? YES! Barriers? NO!
Example: James Roberts travels out of town overnight a lot with his job so after he has been on a trip James has worked out with his wife where she intentionally asks him: Did you watch something you should not watch? Why? Being authentic with one another. Satan wants to have people say, see, you watched this or you looked at that or you did that and it made no difference. But it has and it will until change comes! Real relationships sometime start bending toward and going toward unreal relationships that will not last for eternity. This is when change needs to come and come quickly for the relationship to last.*

SLIDE 09 — INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL REALATIONSHIPS:

Realationships

What are they and how do you get there?

What are they? The first primary example is one of marriage which is a real relationship that is with only two/with transparency/with being committed/based on real knowledge/based on real trust/based on real love/based on real preference/based on real long-suffering/based on real building up/based on real forgiveness ... so the traits of **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** ... some say easy to forgive but hard to forget!

How do you get there? Self-sacrifice/being willing to listen/being willing to go after/being willing to fill the void/being willing to practice exiting facades/being willing to be an accountability partner/being willing to practice authenticity between us and God/being willing to help heal when the image of perfection is flawed/being willing to ask how are we doing as _____ (fill-in-the-blank)/being willing to say I am doing (with mate)

SLIDE 10 — “Pastors at Greater Risk” H. B. London:

66% of pastor's families feel pressure to model the ideal family
80% say they have insufficient time with their spouse
56% of pastor's wives say they have no close friends
80% believe that pastoral ministry affects their family negatively
70% say they do not have a close friend , confidant or mentor
95% do not pray regularly with their wife
80% spend less than 15 minutes a day in prayer
70% say time spent studying God's Word is to prepare sermons

Realationships: When people get hurt, they put on a mask(s). The key to real relationships (**true realationships**) is that people are willing to break through the pain and risk the hurt and pursue the other person. What is our part in mending the relationship? We can end up living past ourselves – instead, we need to consider the person in the mirror and then our spouse. If the marriage is solid, each person can consider maybe two (not more than three) other close intentional spiritual relationships. The problem today is that the **pace of life is too fast** so it is best for one person to focus on only two or three additional significant intentional spiritual relationships.

SLIDE 11 – INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL REALATIONSHIPS:

Realationships

They get messy... they share hurt, confess failure, express doubt, acknowledge weakness, reveal true feelings, ask for help, and more. We all, at one time in our life, have most likely been hurt by relationships. As a result, we build fences and put on masks. But God designed us for them so we need to find a way to break through the pain and risk the hurt and pursue them.

What are some ways to do this? Tuesday and Thursday could be Mentor Day. The key is to encourage the person to have an ongoing conversation with God by applying one verse (scripture) per day in their life (all day long) and make that one verse be intentional and motivational in changing their relationship with God and other people. The apostle Paul spent his life pouring himself into people, but not where they became dependent on him, Paul. So, don't go beyond six months in a mentor/mentee relationship. Encourage the person to respond

dynamically to Jesus Christ with that scripture not just look at it as a principle to look at intellectually.

What is the goal of a growing church? Gene Guess says, “The primary goal in a church is not numerical church growth but the spiritual health of the men and women in that church. The big challenge today is that we think that evangelism is sharing the church. Many are awkward in trying to share our church. The key is not to share our church but to share our faith (our spiritual health, our relationship with Jesus) and as a result we can invite people to church when they begin to pursue a relationship with Jesus Christ. That is why it is so beneficial if **our own relationship with Jesus Christ** is an INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP. When a church is healthy, it will multiply!

SLIDE 12 — INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL REALATIONSHIPS:

Realationships

What do you sense that God may be leading you to do in response?

Who... When... How...

Who? The key here is **Romans 7 (entire chapter)**. Make major decisions of mentoring only with your wife or your accountability partner (if unmarried).

When? Is there somebody in our relationship that is being impressed upon you? Who do we know that is struggling with God? With life?

How? Bring that person to God in prayer day after day. Start on our knees before the Lord and in that relationship learn his love and be vulnerable in HIS presence for what he (GOD) wants done in their life. When the person comes to you (and they will), you can use the intentional spiritual steps from this sermon and your intentional prayer time to mentor that person and build them up in God and then invite them to come to church with you.

Communion (Romans 8:1-4)
(Followed by Short Prayer before Communion)