

Good Relationship Is Wealthier

Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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Most of us believe that health is wealth. But even if we believe that health is wealth, we should not forget that good relationships are wealthier. Our relationship is all about three perspectives: with ourselves, with others, and with God. Most importantly, wealthier relationships need to be at a personal level.



1. Relationship with Ourselves

We may not be fully aware that the most bullied person is ourselves. Unconsciously, we bully ourselves when we say we are not capable; when we say we cannot do it. It is all in the mind. The way we think leads to the way we feel; and the way we behave is the way we become. We feel overwhelmed when we say, "I am stressed." Rather, we should think about what we need to do one at a time - to start anywhere and end somewhere. Further, when we are given advice using God's Word, we are enlightened because the Word of God is meant to feed our minds (Matthew 4). It is the mind that gives direction and it is our heart that gives motivation. We transform by the way we think. Whatever is in our mind goes down to our heart, and becomes emotion until it pumps that thought into the whole body. Hence, our relationship with ourselves starts with the way we think.

2. Relationship with Others and with God

Our friendship with others and with God has three levels:

2.1 **"Hi, hello!" Friendship.** It is a simple greeting that may or may not necessarily lead to a deeper friendship. People were just waving to Jesus during Palm Sunday.

2.2 **"Functional" Friendship.** It is just functional ("trabaho lang") responsibility: a) between children and their parents – the former need something from the latter; b) between

husband and wife when they call each other papa and mama – responsibility as parents; c) between Jesus and His disciples in the Multiplication of the Loaves, and many more. In reality, we go to church because we need something from Jesus.

2.3 **"Personal" Friendship.** We can be ourselves before the others and can call each other terms of endearment.

2.2.1 Jesus asked Peter three times if He loved Him. Even after Peter denied Jesus 3x before His crucifixion, Jesus still wanted Peter to be His personal friend.

2.2.2 When Jesus taught us how to pray the Lord's Prayer, He started with words of praise and adoration to the Father before supplication.

2.2.3 Couples should go out by themselves and switch to terms of endearment as they used to do during courtship and early stage of marriage.

2.2.4 The same applies to longtime friends who can be open to one another.

3. **Personal friendship brings out a sense of caring or "malasakit."** Experiencing hardship without love means suffering. However, with love, hardship becomes a sacrifice. Ministry becomes lighter when the relationships are good.

Conclusion:

We should affirm each other's personal friendship. Even when not verbalized, we feel what they feel. It can lift one's spirit. It is the same thing with Jesus who gives us what we need even before we ask because He is our personal friend (John 15). Indeed, good relationship is wealthier.

Reflection:

1. Think about your relationship with the Lord. How do you approach Him? Is He your personal or functional friend? How would you deepen your relationship?
2. Think about your family members. Are they your functional or personal friend/s?
3. Think about our Lord's Flock Community. Who do you consider your personal friend/s?

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