


Being Relational | Application

In the same way we choose to be intentional in growing in our relationship with Jesus, we should also become purposeful in conveying to others how they, too, can have a personal relationship with Him.


 **READ: Colossians 4:2**

 **ACTION:** As you abide with Christ, become watchful in anticipation of opportunities God will provide for you to become relational with others.

Anticipating opportunities to influence others for Christ is similar to anticipating other opportunities in life. For example, when you get behind the wheel of your car you are preparing to drive. When you pull out of your driveway, you will follow the rules of the road and anticipate opportunities to move forward, stop, yield, turn, etc.


Similarly, when you abide in Christ, you are preparing and anticipating opportunities to represent Him to others. Because you operate under His authority, as you move about, you will follow His lead in choosing when to speak, what direction to take each conversation, when to act, and the manner in which to do so.

 **Reread Colossians 4:2**


 Be alert to opportunities the Lord may provide for you to share truth with others; thank Him, in advance, for the work He will accomplish in and through you.

 **Colossians 4:3**


Jesus was always relational with the purpose of sharing truth. In following His example, we, too, should pray for and anticipate open doors of opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others.

 **WRITE:** What is the difference between becoming relational with the purpose of building relationships and becoming relational with the purpose of sharing truth?

It's not enough for us to merely make ourselves available to others. Christ made Himself available with intent and purpose. He saw purpose in every conversation, every meeting, every relationship!


 What would it look like if you approached your daily activities in the same manner? (Explain.)

 **Colossians 4:4-6**

 In what practical ways do you intentionally make the most of every opportunity to convey truth to others?



1 Samuel 16:7

Since our purpose is to share truth, we should quickly move past the things that we do not have in common with others to the unity that Christ can bring to every relationship.

-  If it is difficult for you to love others unconditionally, ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to look past outward appearances and to see others the way Jesus does.





Romans 2:11

Jesus loves others every bit as much as He loves you and me, and He desires for us to make disciples of all people. Focusing on His amazing love should motivate us to become relational.


-  Invite the Holy Spirit to **reveal** to you groups or individuals you may favor, as well as those that you avoid.
-  Then, ask the Lord to **enable** you to convey unconditional love as He does and to be impartial with everyone.


Philippians 2:3-4



Since Jesus set the example for us to follow, we should humbly place the spiritual well-being of others ahead of any selfish ambition. In doing so, we will draw attention to Christ within us rather than to ourselves.

-  **FISHING FOR MEN:** As you prepare to disciple others, ask God to enable you to become more aware of the lives of those around you and to become a better listener to those who engage you in conversation.
-  Practice showing your care and concern for each individual by giving them your undivided attention. Listen carefully without interrupting and rely on the Holy Spirit to give you clear comprehension of what is being said.
-  Rather than only relating biblical truth as it applies to your own life, ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight into the lives of others, enabling you to become more effective in sharing applicable truth.
-  As you continue to become prepared to make disciples, rely on the Lord to equip and enable you in every way. Please don't skim over the questions in the remainder of this study, but instead use them to invite the Holy Spirit to provide insight into His will concerning your life. By knowing the answers to personal, spiritual questions, you will be better prepared to disciple others.

Galatians 5:22-23

 **REMEMBER:** The message of Jesus is proclaimed through both word and action. As we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us, the fruit produced will reveal Christ's nature to those around us.

 **THOUGHT PROVOKING:** Are you consistently inviting the Holy Spirit to transform your life into one that exemplifies Christ?

-  Ask the Lord to show you what practical steps need to be taken in your life to become more like Jesus in thought, word, and deed.
-  Then, choose to invite and rely on the work of the Holy Spirit to achieve these changes in your life.

➔ } **1 Timothy 4:12-13**

The life of one training others in discipleship should be grounded in the Word of God and consistently affirmed by biblical truth. In these verses, Paul is encouraging Timothy to be an example of Christ to those under his care.


➔ } In what specific ways does your lifestyle reflect the life of Jesus?

➔ } Are you able to love others as Jesus does regardless of how they treat you?


➔ } It has been said that *it is a powerful influence to communicate God's Word to others and increasingly powerful to be a living example of it*. What is the significance of this statement concerning your role in making disciples?

➔ } Are your responses to others grounded in the Word of God?


 **1 Peter 3:15-16**

 What answer would you give to explain the reason for the hope that you have in Christ?


Paul is reminding us in these verses to set apart Christ as Lord—to have our mindset and affections on the holiness of God. As a result of the reverence we have for Jesus, we should be prepared to speak to others about Him. As we have learned, it is God that provides opportunities to share His truth with others.

 But, what happens if God presents an opportunity, and we are not prepared?

Quality preparation is the result of a consistent practice of focusing your life on Jesus. Therefore, become better prepared to influence those around you through practice.

 Ask the Lord to enable you to be sensitive to the questions of others and to provide you with answers that encourage them to think about Him.

Continually choosing to communicate biblical principles and the personal transformation they provide will serve as evidence of the hope you have in Jesus!

 **TO ENCOURAGE:** In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. (**Titus 2:7-8**)