

**CHRISTCOMPANIONBIBLECHURCH**

**Weekly Bible Study**

***Branch: Headquarters Date :28/02/2023***

**POSSIBILITIES OF RIGHT AND GRACIOUS RELATIONSHIP (Part 1) Study 7.**

**TEXT**: Ecclesiastes 4:7-14.

**MEMORY VERSE**: Psalm 133:1, Rom. 12:10

Relationship matters in life! It is one of the miracles God sets in nature, to bring forth and nurture possibilities!

From the dictionary perspective, the word *relationship* means:

*1. Connection or association; the condition of being related.*

*2. Kinship; being related by blood or marriage.*

*3. A way in which two or more people behave and are involved with each other.*

Thus, from the foregoing definitions, relationship when engaged positively is a key ingredient that is very essential and significant for meaningful life, most especially in Christian fold : In family, Church, friendship, career and community. It plays indispensable roles in promoting peace, love, productive life and performance with excellent results in human endeavors. When it is lacking, badly or wrongly engaged, life becomes difficult, tiring and unfulfilling for those involved!

**The Importance of Right and Gracious Relationship Esther 2:5-18.**

No height is unattainable when one Possesses good relational skill and is surrounded with people that are graciously disposed. The life of Mordecai and Esther is a proof that good understanding, relationship and cooperation can blossom so well into unimaginable positive influence and effect on persona, Church and community advancement.

**1. A lonely life voids of relationship with others is not a good option. Genesis 2:18. God values relationship and demonstrates it both on God's (trinitarian) and human interrelational platforms. (See Genesis 1:26 and Isaiah 6:8).**

Note:

i. *Esther relationship with Mordecai was the source of great future not only for the duo, but the entire Jewish race at the time! You can not tell the extent to which a well meant relationship will affect humanity when graciously handled.*

*ii. Your relationship with Christ should be important to you. It means much and so advantageous than that witnessed between Mordecai to Esther! Christ is an abiding friend who will stand with you on earth and eternity.*

*iii. Sin is the only hindrance to meaningful relationship with Christ. All you need to hook on to is repentance and faith to walk with him obediently.*

**2. Relationship with others must be right in type and gracious in practice: Note:**

i*. Despite the gender difference between Mordecai and Esther, though a blood relation, their relationship was kept pure and holy according to the tenet of their faith received. Leviticus 18:9. Unlike Ammon with Tamar, the relationship was bad.*

*ii. Grace and love was the governing rule: Throughout the book of Esther, the duo stood as epitome of selflessness. All the fruits of the Spirit were evident in their lives, in word and deed, at work, at home and in community! Esther 10:2-3.*

**3. Right relationship with others is an invaluable resource! It is a great wisdom to have it, keep it and maintain it. Proverb 27:10,17.**

*i. Joseph relationship with the Chief Butler was fortune loaded! It became answer and solution to the challenges of that age.*

*ii. Do not despise anyone. The underrated person of today, may become the Mr/Mrs somebody tomorrow! Learn to treat people well, irrespective of tribe, class or challenges faced today. Seek to love, accept and help others. Matthew 11:30.*

**4. True and enduring relationship must be mutually beneficial in the short or long run.**

**Proverb 18:24.** Do not seek your interest alone in relating with others. Selfishness will destroy every good relationship.

Note: The care and tutelage Esther received from Mordecai was returned by honour, respect and goodness towards him. So, learn to make positive and affectionate contributions to benefit or appreciate others with whoever you relate with.

**5. Good relationship brings solutions to prevent ruinous conflict situation, and many troubles associated with such:**

*i. For example, Haman had hateful conflicts with the Jews! (Esther 3:13-15.) Mordecai faithful service to King Ahasuerus and his wonderful relationship with queen Esther became a weapon to withstand the enemy's plot of destruction! Esther 5:1-7; 7: 6-10.*

*ii. In our homes, Church and among brethren, when relationship is right and gracious, Satan, sickness, evils etc. are defeated. Conflicts are easily resolved without much ado. Peace, joy and cooperation become the common experience.*

**6. God’s presence and power manifest awesomely when relationship is embraced and pleasant. Psalm 133:1-3.**

Esther knew this truth when she requested Mordecai and other Jews to join force with her in prayer. God's power was released and the saints triumphed gloriously. Esther 4:16,17.

Good relationship fosters agreement in prayer, the family and the Church of God has much to gain in this.

**7. Everyone must seek to possess good relationship today. We can all learn to do good and relate well with others. The latent blessings are enormous because two good heads are far better than one. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.**

Prayers:

*1. Lord, expose whatever hinders good relationship with others in my life and give me grace to do away with such.*

*2. Lord, make me a salt among men.*

*3. Lord, I want to witness your power in my relationship henceforth. Amen.*

**HYMN: IN TIME LIKE THIS**