Find Your People Week 4 - Holding on To Your People

The enemy wants your connections canceled so he can get you isolated.

1 Peter 5:8

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

What does the Bible say about navigating relationships when they get tough?

Ephesians 4:1 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

Ephesians 4:3-4

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

Ephesians 4:2 Always be **humble...**

Humility

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less."

Romans 12:10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

The key to humility is refusing to forget "their" value.

Ephesians 4:2 Always be humble and **gentle**.

Gentleness

Gentleness is strength under control

Matthew 26:62-63 Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Well, aren't you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?" 63But Jesus remained silent.

Ephesians 4:2

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other ...

Patience

Ephesians 4:2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, **making allowance for** <u>each other's faults because of your love.</u>

If you are going to be patient, you have to be tolerant.

Tolerance

- Tolerance isn't putting a stamp of approval on everything.
- Tolerance isn't compromising Biblical convictions.

Tolerance is giving people the same free-will God gave you.

Proverbs 4:23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Proverbs 26:18-19

Just as damaging as a madman shooting a deadly weapon is someone who lies to a friend and then says, "I was only joking."

Proverbs 27:12 A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

Humility - Gentleness - Patience

Ephesians 3:16-19

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

1 John 4:19 - We love each other because he loved us first.

God's love for you hasn't lessened, ever.