



HOME BUILDERS

VALUES FOR A HEALTHY FAMILY

Part 2 – Keep Relationships Right I John 3:18-21

Pastor Mark Hartman
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1 John 3:18-21 “Little children, let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions. ¹⁹ Then we will know for sure, by our actions, that we are on God’s side, and our consciences will be clear, even when we stand before the Lord. ²⁰ But if we have bad consciences and feel that we have done wrong, the Lord will surely feel it even more, for He knows everything we do. ²¹ But, dearly loved friends, if our consciences are clear, we can come to the Lord with perfect assurance and trust...”

I. THE BASICS OF RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS.

A. Time in the Bible + time in prayer + obeying God = a **right** relationship with God.

*1 John 3:21 “But, dearly loved friends, if our consciences are clear, we can come to the Lord with perfect **assurance** and trust...”*

B. Spending healthy time together + listening to each other + putting each other ahead of ourselves = a right relationship with **others**.

*1 John 3:18 “Little children, let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our **actions**.”*

C. *I John 3:20* “But if we have bad consciences and feel that we have done wrong, the Lord will surely feel it even more, for He knows everything we do.”

II. HOW TO RESTORE A RIGHT CONSCIENCE WITH GOD.

A. Take a personal moral inventory.

Psalm 139:23-24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

B. Accept personal responsibility for wrong choices.

1. *Proverbs 28:13* “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” (NIV)
2. If we really want to stop defeating ourselves, we’ve got to stop deceiving ourselves. We have to own our wrong decisions.

C. Ask God for forgiveness.

1. *I John 1:9* “If we freely admit that we have sinned we find God utterly reliable. He forgives our sin and makes us thoroughly clean from all that is evil.”
2. The basis for our forgiveness is not that we deserve it or that we are such a great people. It is because God is utterly reliable.
3. *Proverbs 28:13* “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” (NIV)

D. *Isaiah 1:18* “No matter how deep the stain of your sin is, I can take it out and make it clean as freshly fallen snow.” (God)

III. HOW TO RESTORE A RIGHT CONSCIENCE WITH OTHERS.

1. P – PUT UP A MIRROR.

The only fuel that can keep anger burning is pride and selfishness.

2. E – EMPATHIZE WITH THEIR FEELINGS .

Sympathy is saying, “I’m sorry you hurt.” Empathy says, “I hurt with you.”

3. A – ACCEPT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Matthew 5:23-24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

4. C – **COMPROMISE** AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

- a. *Romans 12:8 "Do everything possible, on your part, to live at peace with all men."*
- b. *James 3:17 "Wisdom is willing to yield to others."*
- c. To have a good relationship doesn't mean that we ignore the problems just to get along and it doesn't mean that one person walks all over the other. It does mean we **compromise**.

5. E – **EMPHASIZE RECONCILIATION** NOT RESOLUTION.

- a. "Reconciliation" means to **reestablish** the relationship. "Resolution" means to resolve _____.
- b. We can agree to disagree in an **agreeable** way.
- c. If we are going to accomplish reconciliation, whether the person asks for it or not, we must be willing to **forgive**.
- d. *Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God **forgave** you."*

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Notes:
