

# **2019 Nurture and Retention Summit**

## Disciplining, Nurturing, and Reclaiming



**April 5 - 7, 2019**

**“How to Avoid Broken Relationships”**

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**“THAT WE MAY BE ONE”**

Principles for Better Relationships

1

Think of the person you like the least.

2

“Why did Jesus come to this world?”

3

A. Jesus prays for us: “That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in Us **so that** the world may believe that you have sent me.”  
John 17:21

4

B. Two Primary Reasons Jesus Came to Earth

1. To reconcile us to the Father by His perfect life and death. Romans 3; 2 Corinthians 5:7-21

5

2. To reconcile us to each other in perfect agape love relationships (restores us to the image of God). John 17:21-23; Ephesians 2:13-18

6

I. Our Lord's will for us —  
that we be one so the world will believe in Him.

7

C. "It's not the opposition of the world that most endangers the church of Christ. It is the evil cherished in the hearts of believers . . .

8

on the other hand, the strongest witness that God has sent His Son into the world is the existence of harmony and union among men of varied dispositions who form His church." *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 549

9

## 7 Principles for Better Relationships

10

1. Intercede in prayer for people instead of trying to change them or trying to do the Holy Spirit's work yourself.

11

A. Claim promises such as 1 John 5:16 and Isaiah 42:7, 16; Acts 26:18; Isaiah 65:1; Jeremiah 24:7; Jeremiah 3:22; Ezekiel 37:2, 3

B. As we spend time with the Lord He may show us we are part of the problem or set a mirror before us so we can see our need for change. Galatians 6:1-3; Luke 6:37, 38, 41, 42

12

C. Live the fruit of the spirit and “preach” at others less.

D. Take action only if the Holy Spirit leads us.

13

2. Respect diversity of temperaments and God’s created differences in people.

14

A. The Lord has created and gifted us differently so the Body of Christ will have all its complimentary parts. Ephesians 4:1–32.

B. Sacredly regard the feelings and respect the rights of those with whom God has placed us in relationship.

15

“Marked diversities of disposition and character frequently exist in the same family, for it is in the order of God that persons of varied temperament should associate together.”

16

“When this is the case each member of the household should sacredly regard the feelings and respect the rights of the others.”

17

“By this means, mutual consideration and forbearance will be cultivated, prejudices will be softened, and rough points of character smoothed.

18

Harmony may be secured,  
and the blending of the  
varied temperaments may  
be a benefit to each!"  
*Child Guidance, p. 205*

19

3. Assume the best about  
other's motives and actions.  
A. Listen more—seek first to  
understand clearly and then  
to be understood. Don't  
take things second hand  
from secondary sources.

20

B. "Christlike love places the most  
favorable construction on the  
motives and acts of others. It does  
not needlessly expose their faults;  
it does not listen eagerly to  
unfavorable reports, but seeks  
rather to bring to mind the good  
qualities of others." *Acts of the Apostles,*  
p. 319

21

4. Follow Christ's specific  
instructions and do not talk  
to others about problems!  
A. Only say those things which  
can be helpful for building others  
up according to their needs. Even  
if something is "true", don't talk to  
others if it can't help or resolve  
the problem. Ephesians 4:29-32.

22

B. Follow the "gospel order" in  
all situations.  
1. Matthew 18:15-17—  
When a brother in Christ  
sins against you:

23

i. Go to the person "alone"  
first.  
ii. If needed, take one or two  
others as witnesses.  
iii. Lastly, if needed, take it to  
the church for discipline.

24

2. Matthew 5:23, 24 – If someone has “aught against you”, before you worship, go and seek to be reconciled.

25

3. Never talk to those who are not part of the situation or solution process.

26

5. Yield our “rights” and “expectations” to God.

A. Jesus did not go around defending His rights or getting angry when His expectations weren’t met. Many of our relationship problems are caused by our concern for our “rights”.

27

1. Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them!  
Psalms 119:165;  
Luke 6:27–36

28

B. There is a time for “tough love”, but be sure it’s the Lord’s will, not self centeredness.

29

6. Praise God for the source of irritations.

A. Make a list of the good things about the other person and praise God for those things.

B. Pray for the “problem person” to be blessed. Matthew 5:43, 44

30

C. Praise drives evil angels away.

“When things go crossways at your homes, strike up a song about the matchless charms of the Son of God, and I tell you, when you touch this strain, Satan will leave you.”  
*Review and Herald 8/51900*

31

D. By beholding we become changed — so dwell on the good.  
Philippians 4:4–9.

32

7. Lay aside pride and selfishness.

A. Five minutes can solve most difficulties if self and pride are laid aside!

33

“I saw that the remnant were not prepared for what is coming upon the earth. Stupidity, like lethargy, seemed to hang upon the minds of most of those who profess to believe that we are having the last message.

34

“My accompanying angel cried out with awful solemnity, ‘Get ready! Get ready! For the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come. His wrath is to be poured out, unmixed with mercy, and ye are not ready. Rend the heart, and not the garment.

35

A great work must be done for the remnant. Many of them are dwelling upon little trials.’ Said the angel, ‘Legions of evil angels are around you, and are trying to press in their awful darkness, that ye may be ensnared and taken.

36

Ye suffer your minds to be diverted too readily from the work of preparation and the all-important truths for these last days. And ye dwell upon little trials and go into minute particulars of little difficulties to explain them to the satisfaction of this one or that.'

37

Conversation has been protracted for hours between the parties concerned, and not only has their time been wasted, but the servants of God are held to listen to them, when the hearts of both parties are unsubdued by grace.

38

**If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties.** Angels have been grieved and God displeased by the hours which have been spent in justifying self.

39

I saw that God will not bow down and listen to long justifications, and He does not want His servants to do so, and thus precious time be wasted that should be spent in showing transgressors the error of their ways and pulling souls out of the fire." Early Writings, pp. 119, 120

40

### Contemporary Peter

Lord, do you require more of men than what I am now doing? I'm busy in your work, yet I am not certain that it is what you have for me to do. Lord, what more can I do to serve you better?

41

*Nothing, my child.*

42

But, Lord, why do I feel discontented with my service for you? I'm giving of myself and my money unsparingly. I'm a church deaconess and a Sabbath School teacher. I give much of my time to witnessing for you. What more can I do for you?

43

*Nothing, my child.*

44

But, Lord, there still remains a vacancy inside, in spite of my private and public devotion to you. What more can I do?

45

*Nothing.  
Listen, my child: Stop doing things for Me.*

46

What? Now, Lord, let's be reasonable. You've blessed my work for you; you've exhorted me to labor in your vineyard. What do you mean? What if I do stop doing things for you?

47

*Then I'll be able to do them through you.*

48

Oh . . . I think I see. Of course, Lord. My work for you is in vain unless you do it through me. Make me a fit channel, Lord. Do humble me and may I be a worthy vessel for you to use. Now, what task do you want to do through me?

49

*None, my child.*

50

What? You said you'd work through me. What is your task for me?

51

*My daughter, love me.*

52

Now wait a minute, Lord. I've been a Christian for eleven years; what do you mean, "Love Me?" I do love you. Now, that is settled. What is the next step?

53

*There is no other step, loved one; just love Me.*

54

You know I love you, Lord—  
why, my whole life is taken up  
with service to you. What do  
you mean?

55

*Your love for Me is revealed in  
your love to your fellow man.*

56

Oh, I know that, Lord. I do love  
my fellow man!

57

*Do you love your  
Biology Professor?*

58

Well, I don't hate the guy; I  
just leave him alone and he  
leaves me alone.

59

*Do you love your  
Biology Professor?*

60

Now, look, we don't get along. Our personalities clash; one cannot solve that, so I avoid him.

61

*I died for him—and live for him too.*

62

I know, Lord? And I would like to see him saved but you understand that I just don't click with him.

63

*Do you love your  
Biology Professor?*

64

Oh, I respect him—and I think he respects me. I recognize that he is a fine fellow, and I'm sure he'd make a good Christian. But I guess I do think of him as being overconfident and conceited—even a bigot at times. You know his kind, Lord. Why all this about him, Lord? Look at all these other people I love. Why I could . . .

65

*Do you love your  
Biology Professor?*

66

He's the one person, Lord, that I just can't stand. He's pretty hard to take, but I do love . . . I guess everyone else, and certainly, you know I love you.

67

*You only love me to the extent that you love the person you like the least.*

68

But, . . . Well, then, I really don't care about You then. But, . . . I've been a Christian eleven years. I always thought I loved you. Now I see. Lord, thank you for revealing this to me. I will truly love you now.

69

*You cannot, my child.*

70

But you said "love Me" and when I said "OK" you, . . . I don't understand.

71

*How can you love Me? . . .  
There is no love in you. . . .  
God is love.*

72

Then I cannot love anyone?

73

*You are only the channel  
through which I can love  
anyone.*

74

Then: Love this world through  
me, Lord.  
This world of broken men.  
Thou didst love through death,  
Lord:  
O, love through me again!

75

*Yes, I will, my child.*

76

Isn't this too strong?:

*"We only love God to the  
extent that we love the  
person we like the least."*

77

But what did Jesus say?

*"In as much as ye have done  
it unto one of the least of  
these, my brothers, ye have  
done it unto me!"*

78

Thank God He says:

*"The love of God is shed  
abroad in our hearts by the  
Holy Spirit which is given  
unto us." Romans 5:5*

79

*Ask and ye shall receive!*

80

81

## **“The Joys of Being Dead!”**

1. “It is love of self that destroys our peace. While self is all alive, we stand ready continually to guard it from mortification and insult; but when we are dead, and our life is hid with Christ in God, we shall not take neglects or slights to heart. We shall be deaf to reproach and blind to scorn and insult.” *Mount of Blessing*, p 16
  
2. “Those who are dead to self will not feel so readily and will not be prepared to resist everything which may irritate. Dead men cannot feel. You are not dead. If you were, and your life were hid in Christ, a thousand things which you now notice, and which afflict you, would be passed by as unworthy of notice; you would then be grasping the eternal and would be above the petty trials of this life.” *Testimonies*, Vol 2, p 425
  
3. “There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. All who consecrate body, soul, and spirit to His service will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical, mental, and spiritual power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own Spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in mind and heart. Through the grace given us we may achieve victories that because of our own erroneous and preconceived opinions, our defects of character, our smallness of faith, have seemed impossible.” *Ministry of Healing*, p 159
  
4. “We cannot afford to let our spirits chafe over any real or supposed wrong done to ourselves. Self is the enemy we most need to fear. No form of vice has a more baleful effect upon the character than has human passion not under the control of the Holy Spirit. No other victory we can gain will be so precious as the victory gained over self.” *Ministry of Healing*, p 485
  
5. “If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties.” *Early Writings*, p 119
  
6. “In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment. . . . It is the love of self that brings unrest.” *Desire of Ages*, p 330

7. “The new birth is a rare experience in this age of the world. This is the reason why there are so many perplexities in the churches. Many, so many, who assume the name of Christ are unsanctified and unholy. They have been baptized, but they were buried alive. Self did not die, and therefore they did not rise to newness of life in Christ.” *Manuscript 148, 1897; SDA Bible Commentary, Vol 6, p 1075*

8. “There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable.” *Christ's Object Lessons, p 154*

9. “Jesus emptied Himself, and in all that He did, self did not appear. He subordinated all things to the will of His Father. . . . And He bids us, ‘Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart.’ ‘If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself’ (Matt. 11:29; 16:24); let self be dethroned and no longer hold the supremacy of the soul. . . . The independence and self-supremacy in which we glory are seen in their true vileness as tokens of servitude to Satan. Human nature is ever struggling for expression, ready for contest; but he who learns of Christ is emptied of self, of pride, of love of supremacy, and there is silence in the soul. Self is yielded to the disposal of the Holy Spirit. Then we are not anxious to have the highest place. We have no ambition to crowd and elbow ourselves into notice; but we feel that our highest place is at the feet of our Saviour.” *Mount of Blessing, pp 14-15*

10. “. . . The drunkard is despised and is told that his sin will exclude him from heaven; while pride, selfishness, and covetousness too often go unrebuked. But these are sins that are especially offensive to God; for they are contrary to the benevolence of His character, to that unselfish love which is the very atmosphere of the unfallen universe. He who falls into some of the grosser sins may feel a sense of his shame and poverty and his need of the grace of Christ; but pride feels no need, and so it closes the heart against Christ and the infinite blessings He came to give.” *Steps to Christ, p 30*

11. “If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one. But, though professing to be converted, we carry around with us a bundle of self that we regard as altogether too precious to be given up. It is our privilege to lay this burden at the feet of Christ and in its place take the character and similitude of Christ. The Saviour is waiting for us to do this.” *Testimonies, Vol 9, pp 189-190*

**Testimony by Dwight Nelson**  
***“Steps to Personal Revival—Being Filled with the Holy Spirit”***

Last August a young man at the British Columbia camp meeting, where I was preaching, gave me a book. I’d never seen the book before nor had I ever heard of the author—but the man told me there were over 600,000 copies of the book circulating the world in 29 languages. Little did I know this short book would end up dramatically changing my life—the way I prayed, the way I preached, the way I related to others—it has changed my ministry.

Because in all my years of schooling, of preaching and teaching, nobody ever told me or taught me that the Bible and Ellen White teach us to DAILY petition God for a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. How could I have gone this far through pastoring and preaching and never learned so compelling a truth!

But that’s what Helmut Haubeil’s book *Steps to Personal Revival* has taught me. By the time I returned home from that camp meeting I had read the book—in fact I have now read it four times. And my life is changed—you can ask the woman I live with and the people I pastor.

For years I have preached on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit—series of sermons on this vital theme. But now I’ve discovered a way to meet with Jesus every morning and do just as He did every morning with the Father—ask for a fresh baptism of His Spirit.

Humbly I testify that God has raised the bar on my prayer life. I used to spend much time in the Word and a comparatively short time in actual prayer. Now my practice is reversed—I spend much time on my knees in my early morning prayer closet in communion with God and then turn to His Word for His communication with me.

My preaching is experiencing a new freedom and intensity. My leadership with my team and my people has been raised to another level. Suddenly coincidences (what one writer calls synchronicity) are multiplying—it’s as if someone is orchestrating my days and nights, my “chance” meetings and emails and conversations. It’s as if the Holy Spirit is personally directing my waking hours (even my sleeping ones). In fact, I’ve come to know Him as a very personal and truly dear Friend.

Why am I telling you this? I have nothing to gain from this testimony—but I am deeply convicted that you do. Jesus is coming soon. We still have a world, an entire generation, to reach with the everlasting gospel. We simply cannot accomplish that mission on our own. Our only hope is to learn what Jesus knew, to practice what Paul and the first disciples lived. We must

have the DAILY baptism of the Holy Spirit upon our lives and ministry. And the only way we will have it is if we humbly daily ask for it.

I don't know who you are, but I am praying for you as I write this. The promised Gift is yours and mine for the asking. After all didn't Jesus promise us: "If you then who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who [Greek—daily, continually] ask Him" (Luke 11:13)?

Won't you join me in that daily asking. You may download a free PDF of this book right now—[www.steps-to-personal-revival.info](http://www.steps-to-personal-revival.info).