



# ELIMINATING TOXIC INTERACTION

John 13:34; Matthew 7:1-12

John 13:34, A new command I give you: Love one another. **As I have loved you**, so you must love one another.

Mark 14:50

Hebrews 6:12, We do not want you to become **lazy**, but to **imitate** those who through faith and patience **inherit what has been promised**.

Acts 2:41-42, <sup>41</sup>Those who accepted his (Peter's) message were baptized, and about **three thousand** were **added to their number** that day. <sup>42</sup>They **devoted themselves** to the **apostles' teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread and to prayer**.

## Great Discipleship:

- 1) **Devotion to public worship - apostles' teaching - Crowds**
- 2) **Devotion to partner worship - fellowship - Circles**
- 3) **Devotion to private worship - breaking bread - prayer - Causes**

Psalm 92:12-13

Matthew 18:19-20, Again, truly I tell you that if **two** of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where **two or three gather in my name**, there am I with them.

James 5:16, Therefore **confess your sins to each other** and **pray for each other** so that you may be healed. The prayer of a **righteous person** is powerful and effective.

## God's Design for Empowering Relationships

- F** - Finding Treasure
- R** - Relying on Real Love
- I** - Investing in Others Successfully
- E** - Eliminating Toxic Interaction

# Eliminating Toxic Behavior - Matthew 7:1-12

## 1) Say **NO** to **HYPOCRISY**

Matthew 7:1-5, <sup>1</sup>Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup>For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup>**Why do you look** at the **speck of sawdust** in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the **plank in your own eye**? <sup>4</sup>**How can you say** to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>**You hypocrite, first** take the plank out of your own eye, **and then** you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Genesis 12:2-3; Isaiah 54:17

## 2) Say **YES** to **INTEGRITY**

Matthew 7:6, Do not give **dogs** what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to **pigs**. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

John 12:46-47; Proverbs 27:9, 17:17, 18:24

## 3) Say **NOW** to **MERCY** and **GRACE**

Matthew 7:7-8, <sup>7</sup>**Ask** and it will be given to you; **seek** and you will find; **knock** and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who **asks receives**; the one who **seeks finds**; and to the one who knocks, **the door will be opened**.

❖ **God alone knows our deepest desires and how to satisfy them!**

Luke 15:11-31; Matthew 11:20-21, 28-29

## 4) Say **ABSOLUTELY** to **JOYFUL OBEDIENCE**

Matthew 7:9-11, <sup>9</sup>Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup>If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

❖ **The Bible IS NOT** merely a rulebook telling us what to do or not do.

❖ **The Bible IS** a relational book sharing what God wants to do for people and how it happens.

John 14:23-24, <sup>23</sup>Jesus replied, "Anyone who **loves me** will **obey my teaching**. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup>Anyone **who does not love me** will not **obey my teaching** . . .

### Questions:

- 1) What did you hear from the Holy Spirit?
- 2) What will you do because of it?
- 3) How can we pray for you?