



"...seek first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness..."

God First and Relationships - April

Purpose

- Our relationship with God greatly affects all of our other relationships and vice versa. Maintaining healthy relationships in all areas is a matter of keeping *God first*; and how effectively we keep *God first* will determine the quality of the relationships we have!
- The word *relationship* itself is an emotion filled word. And when thinking about keeping *God first*, especially in the area of relationships, a clear mind and honest heart must be maintained no matter the emotion involved.

Thoughts

- See how a *God first* mentality is essential when searching for a mate. Marriage takes three! (I Cor. 11:3) Choose wisely. Do not compromise.
- Maintaining your relationship with your spouse is a matter of keeping *God first* and Godly prioritizing! (**Eph. 5:23-31**). "Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord." "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her." **Verses 23, 25**.
- *God first* is a must in the raising of our kids. Keeping the balance of school, hobbies, recreation and entertainment requires some prioritizing if God is going to remain first! If we are not careful in these areas, God will be second fiddle to friends, entertainment, acceptance and popularity.
- *God first* is a must in our relationship with our parents, even after we have left the home. (**Eph. 6:1-3**) Note what some did with the term "corban" - **Mk. 7:9-13**) We cannot say we are putting *God first* and fail to take care of our parents.

Discussion

1. Building on our previous lessons on work, time, priority – how do all of those areas affect our relationship with our spouse? (How does **Mt. 6:33** and our **theme text** apply to this topic?)
2. Why is rushing into a marriage dangerous? What are some ways to keep *God first* in this process?

3. If we are not treating our spouse the way God has commanded – is He still first? (**I Pt. 3:7**) We serve God by serving our mate.

4. Should parents choose what friends their children will associate with? Should parents regulate their children's entertainment? (**Prov. 1:15**)

5. How can the temptation and pressure of wanting our kids to succeed/fit in/be popular keep us from keeping *God first* in our families?

6. What were the Pharisees doing with the expression "corban." (Mk. 7:9-13)

What applications should we make?

What are some excuses folks make today for not caring for their parents as they should?

7. What does keeping *God first* mean/how does it apply - when family members choose not to follow God?

8. Is it possible to sustain a marriage relationship and not keep *God first*?