

Scriptures: *Matt 5:1-16, James 1:19-26, 2: 14-18*

1. Introduction:

Relationships are the only lasting values in life –

- *Our relationship with God*
- *Our relationship with people*

All other values provide only short-term fulfilment or satisfaction

2. Keys to Effect Relationships for Christians:

- *Walk in God's Ways*
- *Serve in God's Strength*
- *Glory in God's Glory*

The World will only take Christians seriously if their life-style matches their 'lip-style' (ie We practise what we preach!)

3. Key Scripture:

Matt 5:16 (Let your light shine)

4. Walk in God's Ways: (*v.16 - Let your light shine*)

- Live in the manner described in God's Word
- No compromise in Christian principles (eg. White lies, no shady /shabby deals etc)
- Clear stand on key issues
eg. Abortion; Marriage and sexual relationships; Other faiths; Social needs.
- Life-style – Work ethic; Honesty/integrity; Keep promises; Maintain confidences; Withstanding contrary pressures

5. Serve in God's Strength: (*v.16 – Your good works - your service in Christ's name*)

- Be empowered by The Holy Spirit (Ask!)
- Be baptised in The Holy Spirit (Desire, believe and receive His baptism)
- Serve, asking for God's Holy Spirit anointing (Not relying upon own abilities and experience)

6. Glory in God's Glory: (*v.16 – Glorify your Father in heaven*)

Most important of all is that God receives all the glory for what we may achieve. He must take all credit for our accomplishments. Our abilities are his gift.

The praise and honour must not be seized by

Ourselves; our church or denomination; our culture or nationality

We must glorify our Heavenly Father

Points for Discussion:

Walk in God's Ways

- Should we tell the truth at all times? What if we are asked to lie by an employer?
- Are sexual relationships outside marriage acceptable provided love is in the relationship? If not acceptable, why not?
- Are such things as time-keeping, integrity and honesty important when others are not displaying these attributes?
- Is it important that we know what other faiths teach? If so, why?

Serve in God's Strength

- In what way do our natural abilities and experience relate to this requirement?

Glory in God's Glory

- How should we respond when someone praises us or is thankful for what we have accomplished?
- Is 'reward' a part of God's plan for our service for Him?