

Pastor Ron Case
10/2/16

“Real Relationship Required”

Abraham (Part 16)

“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24)

Good, but could be better

Genesis 1:31 – “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”

Genesis 2:18 – “Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’”

Real Relationship Requirements:

(1) Commitment

Genesis 21:22-24 – (22) “At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army said to Abraham, ‘God is with you in all that you do. (23) Now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my descendants or with my posterity, but as I have dealt kindly with you, so you will deal with me and with the land where you have sojourned.’ (24) And Abraham said, ‘I will swear.’”

(2) ‘Reprove-Ability’

Genesis 21:25-26 – (25) “When Abraham reprovved Abimelech about a well of water that Abimelech’s servants had seized, (26) Abimelech said, ‘I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, and I have not heard of it until today.’”

(3) Give & Take

Genesis 21:27-31 – (27) “So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two men made a covenant. (28) Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock apart. (29) And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?” (30) He said, “These seven ewe

lambs you will take from my hand, that this may be a witness for me that I dug this well.' (31) Therefore that place was called Beersheba, because there both of them swore an oath."

(4) Put God First

Genesis 21:32-34 – (32) "So they made a covenant at Beersheba. Then Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army rose up and returned to the land of the Philistines. (33) Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. (34) And Abraham sojourned many days in the land of the Philistines."

**"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"
(Psalm 133:1)**

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you." (Isaiah 49:15)

Questions to Ponder:

- (1) What impacted me most from this message?**
- (2) Have I cultivated some healthy relationships?**
- (3) Have I settled for many shallow associations instead of a few good real relationships?**
- (4) In the long run, who is the one who will never let us down?
(Jer. 31:3; Heb. 13:5)**

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)