

2023 DANIEL FAST

R.E.A.L.

Relationships Everyone's Always Looking for

DAY 16

Romans 12:9-12 [The Voice Translation] *“Love others well, and don’t hide behind a mask; love authentically. Despise evil; **pursue what is good as if your life depends on it.**”¹⁰ Live in true devotion to one another, loving each other as sisters and brothers. Be first to honor others by putting them first.¹¹ Do not slack in your faithfulness and hard work. Let your spirit be on fire, bubbling up and boiling over, as you serve the Lord.¹² Do not forget to rejoice, for hope is always just around the corner. Hold up through the hard times that are coming and devote yourselves to prayer.¹³ Share what you have with the saints, so they lack nothing; take every opportunity to open your life and home to others.”*

In every relationship, both parties should pursue what is good for each other. When we pursue only what is good for ourselves, it is inevitable that our relationships will suffer. So, what is good for a relationship or friendship? Forgiveness, sharing, kindness, love, empathy, giving, serving, listening, having meaningful conversation with each other, are just some of the things that come to mind when thinking about what makes relationships work well.

Jesus understood relationships. He understood what people were looking for. He knew people needed acceptance, to be accepted for who they were and where they were in life. He extended forgiveness without judgment and loved people in the midst of their messes. Jesus validated people. He saw the best in people. He spoke to those who others would not speak to and He hung out with people that most would not want to be seen with. He embraced the lost and lonely. He was always reaching out, extending His hand of healing. And Jesus loved. He simply loved people.

In our pursuing of what is good for relationships, let us always pursue Jesus, first. He is the one who helps us in our relationships. He leads us. He speaks to us. Without pursuing Him, which is the apex of good, we cannot have the Relationships Everyone's Always Looking for. Pursue what is good as if your life depends on it. Pursue Jesus!

It's time to build Relationships Everyone's Always Looking for!

Worship Song:

"New Every Morning" – Covenant Worship

<https://youtu.be/OI-UtD-5G90>

Scripture Readings:

2 Thessalonians 3:13 [Easy-to-Read Version] *"Brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good."*

Philippians 4:8 [The Living Bible] *"And now, brothers, as I close this letter, let me say this one more thing: Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others."*

1 Peter 3:10-11 [God's Word] *"People who want to live a full life and enjoy good days must keep their tongues from saying evil things, and their lips from speaking deceitful things. ¹¹ They must turn away from evil and do good. They must seek peace and pursue it."*

Prayer:

Father, "Thank you!" for a new day with Your new mercies. My prayer today is that I will pursue what is good as if my life depended on it. I will pursue Jesus. I will pursue the goodness of God. In all my friendships and in all my relationships I will pursue what is good. Help me to be aware, in each individual relationship, of what "good" is needed to continue the growth of each person that is my friend or will be my friend. I am excited to pursue what is good for my friends and family. This is the day that good things will happen. In the Name of Jesus I pray, amen!

Today, I need to pray for:

What is God telling me today?
