



MIGHTY MEN OF GOD

Mid-Week Bible Study – Band of Brothers

October 27, 2004

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Week Eight: “Six Battles Common To Men ” –Part III

I. The “Lone Ranger” Syndrome

- Many of us see ourselves as the Lone Ranger

A. Independence Vs. Interdependence

- You were not made to “go it _____”
- God never intended for you to operate in _____
- His program has always included the need for _____
- The battle in which we are engaged requires a _____ mentality
- We cannot win the battle for our _____ alone

B. The Friendship Factor

1. Most men have a friendship _____
 - Most of don't know how to develop a close friendship
 - And we may not know how to be a good friend
 - We have plenty of acquaintances, but no one we can really talk to
2. Friendships bring _____
 - Rejection
 - Betrayal
 - Embarrassment
 - Hurt feelings
3. But friends are _____ the risk
 - A friend is there when you need him (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12)
 - A friend keeps us on track (Proverbs 27:6, 9)
 - A friend helps us crystallize our thinking (Proverbs 27:17)

II. Redemptive Relationships

- God is in the business of redeeming the lives of men
- He is all about life transformation
- And He has chosen to you use each of us in this process

3 Practical Principles

1. God's _____ activity always takes place within relationships
2. God's first step in changing us is to draw us into relationship with _____

3. Our _____ are essential to the work God is completing in us and in others

– Paul David Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*

A. It begins with a foundation of _____ (Philippians 13)

- Without love, you are _____
- Love is the _____ to effective relationships
- Love is _____-focused

B. Love requires _____

- We cannot be a part of Christ's life-giving work without being _____ to lay down our own
- The call is to die daily to our own _____, so that we may be part of His
- We need to see people as _____ of ministry, rather than _____ to it

C. Love focuses on the goal of _____ (Colossians 1:28)

- We are called to _____ the love of Christ
- Our relationships do not _____ to us
- They are not to be governed by our _____
- They should not be based on our personal _____ and _____
- When others interfere with these things, we get _____
- Relationships are not primarily for our _____
- God uses our relationships to _____ a people for Himself
- Our relationships are essential to God's plan of personal _____

III. Keys to effective friendship

A. _____ intently

- Listening intently requires breaking away from self-absorption
- It takes time and effort

B. _____ unconditionally

- Don't judge
- Don't put requirements on your relationship

C. _____ intimately

- Practice transparency
- Get beneath the surface issues to the root of the problem
- Share your own fears, failings, faults and frustrations

D. _____ constantly

- Learn to empathize with the other person
- Empathy marks the character of a man who has escaped self-absorption