

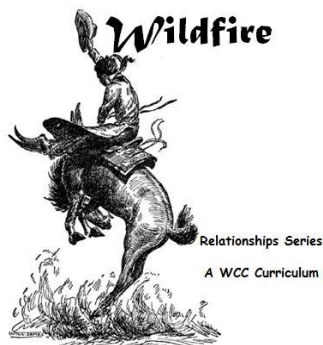
Relationships Series

A WCC Curriculum

Relationships Series

- Relationship to God's Family
- Relationship to World Culture
 - Biblical Relationships in World Culture
 - Battling the Culture: Spiritual Battles
 - Balancing within World Culture
- Relationship to Friends
- Relationship to Immediate Family

- Four Age Level Groups available
 - Little Wranglers/Ages 4s & 5s
 - Wranglers/Ages 1st-5th
 - Teen Wranglers
 - Adult Wranglers Bible Study
- Six week study Series OR any lesson usable as a stand-alone.



Teen Wranglers

Lesson One/ Relationship to God's Family

Introduction and/or Illustrations:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sHZd8heQfk>

NHSRA Saddle Bronc Safety YouTube video is excellent. It is entirely a secular video. If this is watched at the end of a lesson or some of the lessons or even in part then the students should be able to associate and parallel Biblical/spiritual applications from the lessons with the video. It will make for some interesting post-lesson discussion and we recommend it to stimulate same.

This introduction is primarily for the teacher/preacher to understand the concepts taught and is not intended for a verbatim teaching tool, but rather as a reference for the foundation of the lesson.

In many cases reading verbatim is helpful however so these concepts are understood clearly and backed up with scripture.

On a white board write each of the following words or phrases:

- Stranger
- Child in Bad Favor
- Child in Good Favor

There are only TWO positional conditions you can have concerning Jesus Christ: You are either His through your acceptance of salvation by grace through faith [saved/born-again] OR you are “none of His”, that is “lost” without Christ. You are either in the condition of a born-again Child of the King or you are not.

Ephesians 2:8-9

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Romans 8:9

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Once you are in the positional condition of being a born-again Christian there is a further division made in the scripture as to your fellowship with the Lord. You can either be “in favor” with God or not in good favor.

1 Samuel 2:26

And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the Lord, and also with men.

Luke 1:30

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

Proverbs 14:14a

The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: ...

Hebrews 12:7-9

If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

The Stranger to the Family of God

On the white board circle the first concept.

Romans 8:9b

... Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Matthew 25:33

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 7:21-23

Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The Word of God is clear. It will not change no matter how many times mankind “re-writes” and “re-translates” it. God does not change. He is the same today, yesterday, and forever. His Son paid the price so we can accept eternal life through His shed Blood.

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

There is really no debate on this subject at all. So you may fit into this category and if you do, please consider getting out of this position of being a Stranger to the Family of God.

John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Child in Bad Favor

Circle the second concept on the white board marked "Child in Bad Favor."

Bronc riders can climb into a bucking chute; then mount a horse with a little practice. But the real test comes when that chute opens. On the FIRST jump out of the chute, the rider must "mark the horse out." Simply put, the heels of his boots must make contact with the horse above the point of the shoulders before the horse's front legs hit the ground.

There are no second tries in order to score.

This means that he is going to "miss the mark" more often than not. But nonetheless, he gets back on and competes again or he gives up trying. These are the only two options.

Esau didn't even try to hit the mark. He didn't even care to mount the horse. For that matter he wasn't even at the rodeo as a spectator.

Genesis 25:34

Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

Jacob and Esau were twins. Esau was the first born. In the Hebrew culture at that time, this meant he would inherit ALL of his father's property. Then his first born would inherit all of that and so forth on down through the generations.

But Esau did not appreciate his heritage; in fact, the Bible says he "despised" his birthright. In this scripture passage, he had just SOLD it for a bowl of bean soup!

God had made a promise to Esau's grandfather, Abraham that encompassed the possession of the entire region the size of a great country plus the promise of millions of great great great grandchildren to come. But this didn't matter to Esau.

Esau cared only about himself and his eyes and goals were set so low, that he sold his entire riches and inheritance for the momentary temporary satisfaction of a bowl of bean soup.

The promises his dad, Isaac, and his grand-dad Abraham had talked about were not important to him. He sold out cheap and lost the favor of God not only for himself but for his entire generations to come.

James 1:14

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

If you are controlled by the flesh, the natural man, your sin nature, then you are like Esau.

Proverbs 14:14a

The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: ...

Proverbs 21:2

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.

Maybe you aren't as far off the mark as Esau; maybe you are willing to mount up and take the ride, but you can't seem to stay in the saddle.

Bronc riders will tell you it is EASY to get your seat off of the saddle; very easy. It is easy to get twisted coming up off that saddle when you get out of the chute.

It's easy to sit straight in the saddle while you are still in the chute, but once the gate opens and the bronc begins to buck you are easily disconnected from the saddle. So the question is: How to get back on that saddle? They will tell you "LIFT ON THE REINS". Yep, sure way to reconnect is to lift on the reins.

Same goes for getting back in the saddle and being a Child in Good Favor once more; you lift the Lord Jesus Christ back into position; you Lift Him High. He must increase and you must decrease. Get your selfish motives, desires out of the way and put Him back in control. "Lift on the Reins".

Proverbs 8:33

Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

Proverbs 10:17

He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.

Proverbs 13:18

Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.

Proverbs 15:32

He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

If you obey God, then He has something to work with. If you don't obey God, that is, you decide to do things YOUR WAY, then you may miss His purpose and blessing on your entire life.

Child in Good Favor

On white board circle the concept, "Child in Good Favor."

Bronc riders wear boots that are at least half size bigger to a full size bigger than their regular boots when they get on a bronc to ride. Can you guess why?

If your boot gets hung up in the stirrup you need a way out.

If you are to live in good favor with the Lord, you are going to encounter temptations and hardships just like anyone else, thing is, you need a way out. God has provided just that; He's got the bigger boot. Put His armor on before you compete in life; once out of the chute it's hard to change boots.

1 Corinthians 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Proverbs 16:7

When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

1 Thessalonians 4:1

Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Hebrews 11:13-16

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Hebrews Chapter 11 is often referred to as the “Hall of Fame” of people that lived by faith. All of the people God has mentioned here had one thing in common; they believed God and were looking for the Heavenly Kingdom. They wanted to please their heavenly Father.

Proverbs 3: 1-4

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Now all of this scripture sounds great; but how do we get it accomplished? How do we ever live up to these great truths and principles in the Word of God? Living the Christian life daily is a difficult task when you fight your own will continually. You go against the tide, the grain, of the culture at school, in your family many times, and in the community for sure. You need a HELPER.

Professional Bronc riders tell you that you need a “Helper you can trust” while preparing to ride. The helper has to make sure the halter is right [square in the middle of the nose] of the horse; that the equipment is all in place; it takes more than just the rider to get the job done.

Same goes for our daily walk; we need a “Helper you can trust.”

Hebrews 4:16

*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to **help in time of need.***

Not only do we need a Helper we can trust; we need to see the goal. The Bronc rider’s goal is stay on that horse for 8 seconds, use one hand, make points, win the prize. His goal is not to mount up, equip up, and sit in the chute. He has to go when the gate opens; go for the goal, the prize.

So what is the Christian's goal, prize?

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Do you really believe this passage? If we really do, then it will be easy to be a Child in Favor.

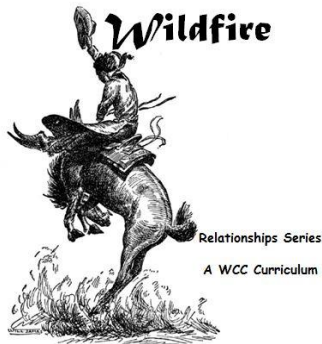
Which are you?

Which position are you in?

- Are you a Child in Good Favor?
- Are you a Child in Bad Favor? Time to fix that; ask forgiveness and make things good again with the Father. First John was written to the born-again believers.
 - *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- Are you a Stranger to the Family of God?
 - *John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

You have to first be born again/saved to be a member of the family. That simply means that you must:

1. Realize that you are not perfect, that you have sinned.
2. Repent of your sin. Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins;
3. Invite Him into your heart.
4. Do you need to start there?



Teen Wranglers

Lessons Two-Four/ Relationships to World Culture

Note: Three lessons on Relationship to World Culture

- **Biblical Relationships in World Culture**
- **Battling the Culture: Spiritual Battles**
- **Balancing within World Culture**

Introduction:

Just the title alone will cause some to resist the message. Isn't that peculiar in and of itself? I have lived long enough now to have experienced my own teen years, my children's teen years, and now my grandchildren's teen years. There is a pattern in these experiences; a common denominator that has not changed across the decades. These messages will address:

- **What does a Biblical friendship or relationship look like?**
- **Spiritual Battles in the World Culture.**
- **Balancing within World Culture.**

Illustrating the message alongside the Bronc Riders environment makes for an interesting comparison that relates not only to the western culture but also to others as well.

Key verses:

2 Corinthians 6:17

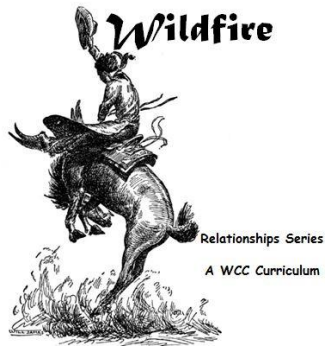
Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

John 15:19

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

John 17:15

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.



Teen Wranglers

Lesson Two:

Biblical Friendships & Relationships:

Key verse:

2 Corinthians 6:17

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

For years I have heard this verse “preached” from the pulpit to young, old, and everyone in between. I have heard it “out of context”, “in context”, and since it has been so predominately used it has lost some of its “punch” with those of us that have heard it for decades. That being the case I’d like to slow down here and read the passage “in context” once more looking at what Paul was talking about and to whom.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

So there it is in black and white. Since the Bible clearly states that those that are born-again, saved, believers are considered to be in the light and referred to as the righteous because of His righteousness, then the Bible is clearly stating that the born-again believer is not to be yoked, that is, joined to, tied up with the unbelievers.

This has nothing to do with reaching the lost for Christ as we have a clear command on that front. This passage is not addressing evangelism at all so that is a matter not up for discussion at this point.

This passage is written to the believers and is warning of being in partnerships with the unbelievers. Those partnerships may be anything from business partners to dating or even marital partnerships.

The scope is left open for us to decide for ourselves where to “draw the line” or “set the boundaries” in some cases. However, when it comes to the “temple of the living God” you have a mandate; there is no wiggle room on that point.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

You can always find “someone” that dated and married an unbeliever and things turned out “all right.” There is always going to be the exception to the rule if you want to find one.

But that has nothing to do with changing the Word of God, nor God’s mandate on the matter. He did not say, you can do this, if it turns out all right. No, He said, do NOT do this.

1 Peter 2:9

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

This is where the Holy Spirit discernment aspect comes into play. You see, many people try to regulate separation from the world on the basis of things, not on the basis of Scripture.

As a consequence they have no testimony, no influence with the people they are trying to reach. They can look “odd” but that is not what being a peculiar people means at all.

God is not talking about “things” but rather about a spiritual position, a unique situation that the born-again are in; that is, they are blood bought children of God and as such are told to not “hook up” with the unbelievers in close personal relationships; period!

You can always find someone that got involved with a Christian and things went badly, too. However, the standard of where you draw the line is determined not by what others do, that is looking at life on the horizontal plane, no, not at all, but the standard should be what does GOD say about this or that.

This is where people of all ages mess up. Looking at others will always get you onto what the CULTURE is doing about this or that. But looking unto Jesus will make you the “peculiar” people He is referring to. You will be in the minority every time. Get used to it.

Either you stand up for Christ or you stand down with the culture.

So what IS a Biblical Friendship, Relationship, or Association?

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Psalms 118:8

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

Proverbs 25: 19

Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

John 15:13

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Proverbs 18:24

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

1 John 3:14

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 3:13a

But exhort one another daily...

David and Jonathon had the kind of friendship that is sound, Biblical, and exemplifies a true God blessed friendship. But those are rare.

But that kind of friendship is not impossible to find either.

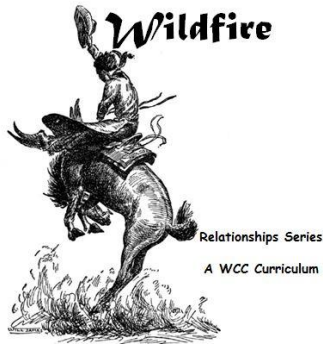
Today's culture tells us that it is OK to compromise our affiliations. After all, we are all one big happy family of God.

This is where the facts are blurred! This is a lie of the culture! And it comes out of our mouths in the culture like it was truth. First John is written to the born-again Christian not to the populous at large.

Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Biblical friendship is friendship that brings you up as a person; encourages your Christian walk; and above all will not ask you to put anything or anyone before the Lord Jesus Christ.



Teen Wranglers

Lesson Three:

Battling the Culture: Spiritual Battles in World Culture

John 15:19

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

The culture says that the Christian is intolerant. That “intolerance” is a wicked, evil, despicably bad word.

The culture says that Christians are just like any other “religious” group of people.

The culture says that Christians are too narrow in the “world view” and therefore some sort of Medieval Culture that has carried over into the 21st Century.

The culture says “After all, we are all the children of God.”

The culture says “Try it, you might like it.”

The culture says “Come through this wide gate because everyone is going this way.”

The culture says “Go ahead, take a bite, you won’t die, Eve, after all I can quote scripture so I must be godly.”

Christian Teens are deceived because they are not reading the Word of God on a daily basis, talking daily to the Lord, and prepared therefore to meet the enemy.

Who is the enemy anyway? Obviously Satan is, but he can only be in one place at one time. Physical fact as he is not omnipresent like God. He does have a host of demons, fallen angels, running about the planet. But they are not so much needed when the flesh and the world take such predominance in our culture.

Media, communication, pleasures are all instant and we look for instant gratification instead of thinking before we act or react. This is a flesh problem, a self-problem.

There’s enemy number one, look into the mirror. Get used to it, as that enemy will be with you all of your life. You have to take control of that one, yourself. No one can do that for you.

Romans 7:18

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

There is an illustration we have often used. Stand someone next to you and call them the World. Call yourself the Church. Have the World take a step away from you to the side. Have them take a second and a third step to the side. Now you take a step in the same direction. Now each time the person representing the world takes a step further, you take one also. Stop after a few steps. Where are you standing? You are now standing where the World once stood. You don't look so bad; after all, you are not like the World.

This is how the enemy works.

I have heard more than one Bronc rider say: SET YOUR OWN SADDLE. For you non-horse folks; simply put, you put your own saddle on your horse so there is no mistake things are in place before you get on to ride. No burrs under the saddle to distract the horse is a necessity or in the case of the bronc ride that might just mean no points today from a bad ride. Stirrups set at the right level determines if you stay on the bronc or not or even if you get hung up. Determine to have the last word in how you ride.

Letting another person "Set your Saddle" or Determine your ride is poor judgment.

Comparing your situation with the culture rather than with the Scripture will leave you standing in enemy territory every time.

James 4:4b

....., know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

While we play at "feel good in the moment" settings we sell the VERY BEST for the substitute, and a very cheap one at that.

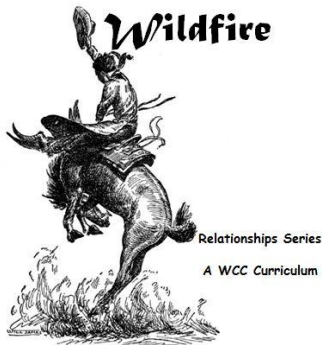
So, how do we fix this? How do we battle the World Culture?

Matthew 22:37

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This scripture pretty well sums it up. You want to please and stay close to and cherish what you love.

Until you love the Lord that much, you will find excuses for how you choose to live, choose to react, and in every choice you make.



Teen Wranglers

Lesson Four:

Balancing within World Culture:

John 17:15

I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.

World Culture will continue to shift away from God. That is part of the big timeline God has set out. Revelation WILL happen; you and I can't change that.

Be Proactive

Our nature wants to react rather than act. But if you are going to balance your life in the World Culture and not become part of it, then you have to be PROACTIVE. You won't be successful without some effort on your part.

We are not going to be able to "hide" from world cultural views nor should we for that matter. At one time or another, the parent wants to keep the child "innocent" in his dealings. But sooner or later, he has to face the music and walk out there into the culture. Thing is, how will he handle it?

That is going to boil down to a personal choice on the part of the individual, every time. No amount of conditioning or preparation gets you totally ready for the first time you are bullied, made fun of, or down right "wronged." It happens to us all individually, one on one. That first betrayal from a friend, that first time you walk up on someone you thought was your good friend and they are bad mouthing you to someone else we think is a big heartache at the time.

Then the real stuff begins. A parent leaves the other and you just don't have the funds anymore in your home to get basic needs. Or you lose that first real job you had. Or that long time boy or girl friend you thought would be in your life forever, tells you that it's over.

The World Culture will invade your space.

You will want to get even; lash out; get bitter; take revenge. That's what the world does. But this is not what is expected from God's Child.

Matthew 5:38-48

Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.

And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:44

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Tall order! But that's the order nonetheless! You have to be proactive in your actions to accomplish that kind of response. Takes some practice; won't happen the first time maybe, not every time for certain; but nonetheless that's the standard and the expectation of our Lord or He wouldn't have taken the time to bring it up and have Matthew put it into print for us to read all these centuries later. Same human condition existed then, that exists now. Same reaction is required.

Guard your Input

The old saying I grew up with still applies: Garbage in; Garbage out. That doesn't require a lot of brain power to figure out.

So, OK, we know that, so how to fix the garbage in? You turn on the radio; the songs are explicit; you go to a PG-13 movie things get really explicit. You look at a billboard in town and the message is "in your face."

And let's face it, if you go on Facebook it can even be a major distraction.

So what's a person to do? Even a monastery on a mountain top in Tibet has internet!

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

That same example from the first lesson in this series applies here once more. The Bronc rider wears a boot that is ½ to 1 full size larger than his regular walking boot. He went in prepared to escape! If his boot hangs up in the stirrup during the ride, he has a way out. Jesus said, there's a way out in a pinch!

1 Corinthians 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Conviction, that knowing nagging pulling conviction, when you KNOW you ought not to be there in that situation at that party at that hang out with that person, that is called conviction of the Holy Spirit and you better believe He is no fairy tale.

When you are a born-again believer the Holy Spirit indwells your body and if you think you are sneaking by Him and that He is comfortable in a compromised situation, then you are mistaken.

Get up, get out, keep walking, and do not look back; that about sums it up.

Then Where/ How do we fit in the World Culture?

A disciple of Jesus Christ will NOT fit into the World Culture nor will he be conformed to it.

Did I say that? Yes, I did, but let's see what God says.

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Do I mean you must be weird? Not work in the secular or you are less than those that are full-time ministry? Do I mean you never play a ball-game? Do I mean you never see a movie? Do I mean you put down those that DO or DO NOT do these things? Is that what Paul is saying in Romans? NOT AT ALL!

World Culture is an attitude as much as a physical state of worldliness, wherever that line falls. That is determined by scripture and Holy Spirit conviction. Get in the Word, and you soon find out where you fit. You may be sitting in the chute on the horse, with the gate open riding the Bronc, or maybe not even at the rodeo yet.

How can you move to the next level of being of use in the Kingdom and getting others to Christ if you are still in the chute?

First get out of the chute! Open that gate to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. If you keep telling Him, not interested on this or that point, then you will still be sitting in the chute when Jesus comes! No points or prizes or crowns to lie at Jesus' feet; just sitting in the chute.

Mark 16:15

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Luke 14:23

And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

John 4:35

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

What part of GO YE do we not get?

What part of GO OUT do we not get?

What part of Lift up your eyes and look, do we not get?

THAT is where we fit into the culture! We are to spread the Gospel! We were never told to make them comfortable or to make them good folks nor happy folks either. We were told to give them Christ! And that ONLY happens when a person accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior.

We are here to present the Gospel so that they can make the choice or not to accept Christ.

The Bronc Rider doesn't go to the rodeo to show off his new hat and boots.

He doesn't go to sit in the chute either. He goes to win the prize.

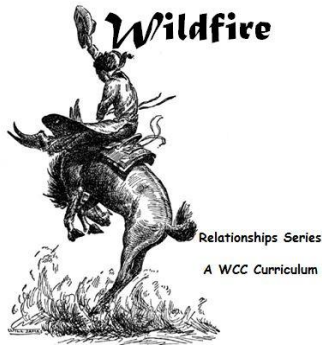
Philippians 3:14

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Conclusion:

You have to first be born again/saved to be a member of the family to even be in this rodeo. That simply means that you must:

- Realize that you are not perfect, that you have sinned.
- Repent of your sin. Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins;
- Invite Him into your heart.
- Do you need to start there?



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Teen Wranglers

Lesson Five:

Relationship with Friends

Romans 14:7

For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

Bronc rider once said: You need a THICK pair of chaps; tight fitting; and covers all the way down to the knee. If you don't then your thigh will be frightfully raw.

Saw a post on a horse forum on the internet and the fellow asks: When are your chaps worn out? He was concerned because they had worn smooth. Fellow answers and says: They are worn smooth because you ride a lot; keep the chaps until they are worn out. They are just getting broken in good.

You can buy the spangled up, fringed up, priced up chaps and they will be nice looking and flashy. You can buy the leather, or the pseudo leather. You can buy the plain functional basic but good leather pair with working buckles, zippers or straps as you might prefer. But at the end of the day, if you are riding a Bronc, you need thick chaps, tight fitting and ones that cover the parts of you that are going to rub against that gear.

Friends work out much the same way. You get one pair in a lifetime that you just do not want to see wear out. You might get a flashy pair that look good, but leave you raw every time. You might even try to ride the Bronc without a pair of chaps sometime. But in the end you are looking for them to serve you well.

Jesus paid folks His highest compliment I think when He said this to His followers:

John 15:15

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Give me Friend Jesus any day.

Relationship to the Saved Friend

1 Thessalonians 4:1

Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

Thanks to social media it is getting easier to be called 'friend' rather than acquaintance.

It's like being called a cowboy because you wear a hat. Real cowboys call folks like that "all hat and no cattle."

You will have friends that come and go in this life, but a lifetime friend is harder to find. It takes effort.

If you are born-again, then a saved friend is the better friendship for obvious reasons. You have the same citizenship in Heaven, should have the same goals of pleasing the Savior, and definitely are both in need of a close relationship to the Savior. You have a common Foundation; His name is Jesus.

But while all that is true, bear in mind that a saved friend can hurt you and betray your trust just as quickly as a "lost" or unsaved friend can. We are still in the flesh on this side of the clouds. We are not perfected while on this planet.

Saved people can be ornery and hard to get along with, too.

Proverbs 22:24

Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Saved people will need your forgiveness just as much so as unsaved people.

Ephesians 4:32

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Fact is, there is no perfect friendship with a human being because we are human beings. However, you have a whole lot better chance of a lasting beneficial friendship if you stick to saved friends for your close friends that you "run" with. And any friendship that begins to digress your relationship with the Savior, it needs some cooling off time for sure. Put distance between you and "friends" that cause you to use foul language or laugh at off-color humor. It is a sure sign of danger for you.

And that includes your "church friends" as well.

Even some leadership that is supposed to "know better" will sometimes laugh at the unseemly and can lead you down a compromised path that is not bringing you nearer the Savior but rather putting more distance in your fellowship with Him.

Give me Jesus any day, even if I am the last one standing.

Build one another up in the faith.

Jude 1:20

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost...

Relationship to the Unsaved Friend

The Pick-Up Men are vital to the Bronc Rider. If these guys are not in the right position when it's time to dismount from that bronc then the rider is in trouble. Broken bones and even an occasional death have been attributed to the "HELPER" not being on time or in the right position to Pick-Up the rider.

Often you hear the Bronc Riders say: You want a helper you can trust.

These Pick-up men come alongside the Bronc Rider so he can dismount when the ride is completed. If he's late the rider can end up injured badly. If he is early, then the ride gets a little longer, because he is going to have to re-position so the rider can grab his back or back of his saddle and swing over that helper's horse and land on the ground out of harm's way.

When things go wrong, even the Helper can end up in the dirt.

Amnon had a poor helper. His name was Jonadab.

2 Samuel 13:3

But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtle man.

From everything we read King David's son Amnon could have been a professing believer. However, here we find him in a much compromised situation. Yes, he could be a believer. Yes, he has fleshy desires just like any normal re-blooded young man, which the Bible says can be controlled and reserved for marriage. Yes, he sees this beautiful half-sister of his, but he sets his thoughts to dwelling on her physically. He ends up voicing this lustful thought to a "friend" and the "friend" tells him how to entrap her. The rest is history. Lives are forever destroyed; brother slays brother before the thing is finished.

Being friends with the world is dangerous ground.

James 4:4

... know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

1 John 2:15

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

When we have friends that are non-Christians, let us exercise caution and draw a line in the sand. We can be their friends and use our friendships as a way to share the gospel both by our words and by the love that we show them but we cannot be too closely associated with them because light and darkness have no fellowship together.

We are the children of the light and we must come out of the world even while we are living in it.

Ephesians 5:8

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

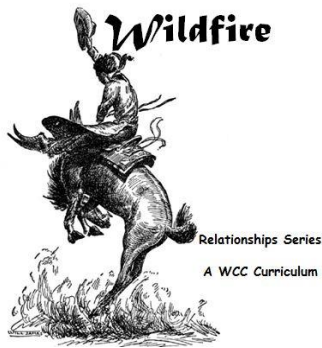
The bottom line is, you can have an unsaved friend. But your relationship to them is not one of harmony if you are saved. It cannot be, because you are of two different spirits.

Your position should always be to seek and pray and find how and when the Lord would have you interact with this friend so that you can point them to the Cross of Calvary.

You will have co-workers that you have friendships with; but that does NOT mean you should be at the bar after work with them.

You will have school friends that are unsaved; but this does not mean that you are standing around with a wad of tobacco in your cheek so you can have their friendship.

A TRUE friend will ACCEPT who you are in Christ Jesus; or they are only an acquaintance. Your position is to get them to Christ. Either you believe that eternity is real or you do not. It's that simple.



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Lesson Six:

Relationship with Immediate Family

The Immediate Family of the 21st Century

Immediate Family can mean a lot of different situations and look very differently from home to home.

Generally speaking, it is the people you live with either most of the time or even part of the time. It includes the extended members of the household as well.

Families can look like Dad, Mom, & the children. Families can look like one parent and the children. Families can look like two adults that are raising children; a grandparent that is raising a child; or foster parents with temporary custody of someone else's children. The family unit can look very different household to household.

Not everything we call family actually is either. Therein lays the confusion. Who do we listen to? Where does our allegiance lie?

Romans 12:18

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Relationship to Siblings

Romans 14:10

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Ron had one brother; Francine was an only child. So telling you how to live with a large number of siblings would not be something we'd have any experience about.

However, Ron's one brother is enough to get the idea across. There were several years' difference in age; Ron was the younger. His brother liked to get behind the doors in the house and wait for him to walk by; then he'd punch Ron. Maybe his experience shouldn't be an example to live by for big brothers.

However, there are a couple of things to make note of:

Romans 14:10 is referring to born-again believers; people were not called brethren unless they were. Besides that, only the born-again will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. The unsaved go to the Great White Throne Judgment. These are two entirely different judgments at two entirely different times. This is one reason there is so much confusion with understanding scripture; not all of it is written to the populace at large. Much is written to the saved and much is written regarding the unsaved. You have to read scripture in proper context to understand the major principles and doctrines. This opens up a whole different Bible study in and of itself.

- One: You will live in the same house for many years together, so you might as well learn to live together.
- Two: Some are easier to like than others; but you are under obligation to love them.
- Three: Once you are adults, your relationship will not remain the same; it will be different.

So until you are out of the household, you have an obligation to “get along”. That does not include disrespect; that does include peaceably living together. That does not include invasion of privacy or personal space; but it does include reasonableness.

Relationship to Parents:

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Teens and parents are notorious for not communicating and lack of understanding. The media has made sure that we get that message. I recall as a small child a sitcom with Doby Gillis and Maynard the Beatnik. Then next generation got Ron Howard in Happy Days.

Culture adopted the idea that it was “normal” to be in rebellion in your teen years. Granted there are biological reasons for a pulling away and standing on your own two feet that occurs; we are designed to become independent and start thinking for ourselves by the teen years.

However, I am not so sure that “rebellion” is normal at all.

I am certain it is wicked.

1 Samuel 15:23a

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

When the Bronc Rider saddles up he finds it helpful to tighten that back cinch first, then the front.

Getting the front cinch on first makes for a bad situation, the saddle and gear are going to slip a great deal of the time. And a frayed out cinch, only adds to the problems.

Gearing up “out of order” leads to a wreck!

The Bible is clear that we are still under obligation to obey parental authority, respecting the office of the parent until full adulthood. In fact, many believe that is the case until the young adult is married.

Genesis 2:24

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

In fact, respect for any adult comes under this passage but it certainly states respect for the father and the mother as well:

1 Timothy 5: 1-2

*Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;
The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.*

Bottom line: Want to be blessed? Follow the Word. Kick Rebellion to the fence. Get rid of that old worn out cinch. Gear up in the right sequence and order.

Relationship to the Extended Family:

Bronc rider said: Do not approach the horse from the front.

Approach him calmly. Keep him calm in the chute. Same thing might be said for Extended family, at least some of them I have known.

When you add folks to the mix then things can get a little dicey.

You may be used to having your own space and suddenly you have other people living in your house and helping themselves to your stuff. It may be apparent that confrontation is coming. Your boundaries are going to be set.

Just don't approach the horse from the front; that is, head on. Keep things calm.

Advice for handling these situations:

- Be Cool
- Be Calm
- Be Collected
- Cowgirl [Cowboy] Up! With Kindness

Conclusion:

You have to first be born again/saved to be a member of the family to even be in this rodeo. That simply means that you must:

- Realize that you are not perfect, that you have sinned.
- Repent of your sin. Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins;
- Invite Him into your heart.
- Do you need to start there?