



Sermon Notes from 14 October

Relationships: Make or Break? (*Proverbs 10:18; 11:12-13; 17:9; 24:17-18, 28-29; 25:7b-10, 21-22; 27:5-6*)

by Rev Guna Raman

The quality of your life greatly improves when your relationships are right and healthy. **Relationships will either make or break your life.**

The book of Proverbs gives us the wisdom we need to navigate through our relationships.

1. How relationships break.

Prov 10:18 **Hate is ill will!**

Prov 24:17 **You have ill will for someone when you begin to find happiness in their unhappiness.**

We are all guilty of this, but we conceal it from others and ourselves!

Matt 5:22 Jesus tells us how murder starts with the seed of hatred. It shows up in our slanderous speech.

A slander is any communication designed to diminish the person in the eyes of the listener. This is the conduct of fools (Prov 24:28). They destroy themselves and others. The evil that was done to you shapes you into its image! Hate makes your heart toxic, distancing you from God and cause illness in your body.

Don't let hate take root in your heart.

2. How broken relationships are re-made.

Four ways you can repair broken relationships. Two dos and two don'ts:

1. Don't look down on the offender.

Prov 11:12-13 Derision comes from a sense of superiority and ill-will. You feel completely justified in putting down another. You use the failure of another to convince others and yourself that you are actually better!

This feeds the distorted and unbiblical view of yourself and others. You generalize and exaggerate the flaws of others causing class divides.

Resist the natural need to feel superior and to put down others.

2. Don't make the offender pay you back for what they have done to you

Proverbs 24:28-29 is an economic language of liability - unforgiveness.

Prov 17:9; Prov 27:5-6 *To cover over an offence means to stop repeating it.* This would leave you having to absorb the debt and bear the hurt yourself - the cost of forgiving another.

3. Do overcome evil with good

Keeping away from your offender and having nothing to do with them is also ill-will. Prov 25:21-22; Rom 12:14-21 -Find ways of doing good to those who have offended you. Heal their hurt and gain health and wisdom!

4. Only after you have done all the above, do you consider confronting the offender

Prov 27:5-6 Lastly, confront with love.

3. How relationships are stayed.

Prov 24:17-18; Rom 12:19 You play God when you, a servant, hate another and pray for their punishment.

Isa 53:5-6 Jesus took the vengeance that we deserve. Vengeance is His! To gain a heart for forgiveness, of humility and love, you need to know what Jesus did on the cross for you.

By His wounds we are healed!