

Relating Up & Down

Series i-design

- created equal as image bearers of God
- created for distinct roles – need each other
- primary areas of dominion
 - marketplace – responsible, oversight, providing for
 - home – center for ministry, modeling, passing on
- culture has distorted the value of God's roles
- God's design involves all stages of life working together

Relating Up & Down

Two Important Things:

1. Designed to be Life Long Learners

a) constantly growing, adding to, serving & relating

- Titus 2:1-6 teach older men, teach older women

- Proverbs 9:9 instruct a wise man, teach a righteous.

b) God had a design for every stage in life

- instructions for children, parents, grandparents

- meant to honor & build into one another

Relating Up & Down

2. God's Design means we Depend on One Another

a) taught and modeled relationship with God

- Deut. 6:4-8 – center for instruction
- discipline, respect, selflessness, serving – important

b) provision for when the ideal goes unmet

- 1 Tim 5:3-11 – widows, families etc
- Father to the fatherless, family of God filling in

c) designed to need each other

- family of God – gifts, work in harmony

Relating Up & Down

1. Parents & Children

a) Honor Father & Mother

- Exodus 20:12 ***"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. "***

- Proverbs 23:22 ***"Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. "***

- clear teaching – roles, marriage, family, home – all in the design of God. We are to honor our parents, respect and pay attention to their instruction.

Relating Up & Down

b) Parents are Instructors in the Home

- Deut. 6:4-9 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

Relating Up & Down

- Joel 1:3 *“Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.”*

- Col 3:20 *“Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ”*

c) Warnings

- Eph 6:1-4 *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”*

Relating Up & Down

2. Elders and Youth

a) Men

- Titus 2:1-2,6-8 – ***“You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.”.... “Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.”***

Relating Up & Down

- 1 Tim 5:1 ***“Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.”***

- Prov. 19:20 ***“Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.”***

- 1 Tim 4:12 ***“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”***

- When you do not employ the wisdom of the elders, and allow their input – disaster 1 Kings 12:1-19

Relating Up & Down

b) Women

- Titus 2:3-4 *“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.”*

- 2 Tim 1:5 *“I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”*

Relating Up & Down

3. Tips for Cross Generational Relationships

a) Based on Love

- understanding God's love for us, forgiveness, restoration, desire for relationship
- intentionally seeking out & establishing relationship
- paying attention to one another – serving each other

b) Focus on the Right Story

- what legacy am I passing on – me or God
- am I honest about failures, restoration, God's comfort, difficult moments, God's faithfulness in all things?

Relating Up & Down

c) Packaging the Gift

- being wise in when to give gifts of wisdom
- 'pearls before swine' – are they open, ready
- prayer and discernment – careful in dispensing words of correction, words of encouragement, relating wisdom to biblical truth

Relating Up & Down

So What

1. God's Design is for All Ages to Invest in one another.

- have you written off those who are older?
- have you abandoned your responsibility to those younger?

2. Parents and Children set the Stage

- are you honoring your father and mother?
- is your home developing a respect and serving other age groups, and are you intentional about this?

Relating Up & Down

3. How are we doing at passing on wisdom?

- clear teaching about older and younger
- have we developed pathways, are we being obedient to God's word in dealing with each other?

4. Will You develop and intentional plan

- based on God's work on your behalf
- honestly discovering the gift you have
- willing to pray and pursue the honor of passing it along?