

Connecting & Disconnecting

(Discovering Your Destiny Connections)

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CONNECTING AND DISCONNECTING IN LIFE!

1 Co 6:17 - But the person who is joined (CONNECTED) to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

I. AS BELIEVERS WE ARE VERTICALLY CONNECTED - I am connected to Eternity Himself. I am connected to Wisdom. I am connected to Heaven. I am connected to Power. I am connected to the Prosperous One. I am at one with Health Himself. (GREATER IS HE THAT IS WITHIN ME... Stronger is He that is within me! Healthier is he that is in me! Wealthier is He that is in me! Wiser is He that is in me! Calmer is He that is in me! Happier is He that is in me!)

II. WE ARE ALSO HORIZONTALLY CONNECTED (or DISCONNECTED)

To whom has God connected you to bring about the fulfillment of Divine Destiny in your life?

To whom is your DESTINY CONNECTED? WHO is really supposed to be your pastor? WHERE are you to be plugged in to the body of Christ? Who has God made to be your support system towards the accomplishment of God's Will for your life? WHO IS PART OF GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE? Your happiness, productivity, health, and prosperity depend on you correctly identifying your Kingdom partnerships... your proper discernment of God's Destiny Connections for your life.

1 Chron 12:16 NIV – “Other Benjamites and some men from Judah also came to David in his stronghold. 17 David went out to meet them and said to them, “If you have come to me in peace, to help me, I am ready to have you unite with me. But if you have come to betray me to my enemies when my hands are free from violence, may the God of our fathers see it and judge you.” 18 Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the Thirty, and he said: “We are yours, O David! We are with you, O son of Jesse! Success, success to you, and success to those who help you, for your God will help you.” So David received them and made them leaders of his raiding bands.” (TOGETHER DAVID AND THESE BRAVE MEN TOOK ONE ANOTHER TO THE TOP! Their success in life was dependent on David's success. And David's success in life was dependent upon their success! They were SUPERNATURALLY CALLED TO BE INTERDEPENDENT UPON ONE ANOTHER. THEIR DIVINE DESTINIES WERE INTERTWINED!)

If you truly desire to be properly connected, God will bring you across certain people's paths. Then He leaves it up to you TO DISCERN THEIR WORTH AND TO MAKE THE CONNECTION! Acts 18:1 – “Paul and Silas went first to Derbe and then on to Lystra. There they met Timothy, a young disciple whose mother was a Jewish believer, but whose father was a Greek. 2 Timothy was well thought of by the believers^o in Lystra and Iconium, 3 so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey.”

Mike Murdock says: "When God wants to bless you, He brings a person into your life! (Conversely, when Satan wants to curse you, he also brings a person into your life!)"

Don't CONNECT out of mere convenience. Don't CONNECT out of religious or family traditions. CONNECT out of Spirit-Led & Spirit-Birthed RELATIONSHIPS. GOD IS A GOD WHO ESTABLISHES SUPERNATURAL RELATIONSHIPS between individuals.

The popular Billboard adage, "GO TO THE CHURCH OF YOUR OWN CHOICE!" is actually ludicrous when you think about it. YOU AND I BETTER GO TO THE CHURCH GOD SAYS TO GO TO! I certainly agree with the need to go to church. But one will not truly grow and be happy unless the Spirit leads them to the right church for them.

The reason Pastor Rod Crutcher has driven 1-1/2 hours to church from Huntsville, AL to Tullahoma, TN for the last two years, is that he and I realize that our destinies are intertwined. I cannot make it to the goal line without him, and he also knows deep within his heart that I am to be a part of his destiny. The reason Kelly Bamberger drives an hour and a half from Nashville to Tullahoma to play the drums here at church is because she feels supernaturally connected. God knit her to us and she was wise to properly discern our church's part in her spiritual development, and I was wise enough to properly discern her worth to this team. The reason we have many people who drive every Sunday from cities 30 minutes to 1-1/2 hours away is because they have DISCERNED THEIR KINGDOM CONNECTION to this church and to me as their pastor. God supernaturally brought us ACROSS ONE ANOTHER'S PATHS because we were seeking Him! Not that I am anything at all, but they have connected to the anointing and integrity in my life, and I to theirs!

Our CONNECTIONS determine our SUCCESSIONS.

Said in another way: Our CONNECTIONS decide our PROGRESSIONS.

Ask God to CONNECT YOU to the right people whose destiny is tied to yours, and yours to them!

Don't CONNECT by accident, out of your insecurities or an inordinate need for others' approval. Rather CONNECT prayerfully and on purpose!

To whomever you are yoked will either make you or break you. Someone has wisely said: "You will be the same person you are this time next year, except for the ASSOCIATIONS you keep and the books you read!"

III. IT TAKES RESPECT TO CONNECT!

Respect, not love, not affection, not even mutual interests, is the Master Key to a lasting relationship.

Respect is the invisible bond. Without it, a relationship unravels.

Respect is the only foundation upon which a relationship can be built.

Mike Murdock says: "Those who disrespect your divine assignment in life disqualify themselves for a relationship with you."

"....Jesus never begged anyone to believe in Him!"

"Integrity cannot be proven to another; it must be DISCERNED!"

"Those who do not respect your time will not respect your wisdom either."

"Qualify the soil of someone's heart before investing your life into them."

Understanding Respect: I must CHOOSE to respect another. But I must be WILLING TO EARN another's respect.

To earn someone's respect I must be consistent, reliable, and dependable. The Bible says, "A FAITHFUL MAN

SHALL ABOUND WITH BLESSINGS." Said in another way, A FAITHFUL MAN SHALL ABOUND WITH CONNECTIONS TO PEOPLE THAT PROPEL HIM TO SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY! (The greatest blessings God can bring into your life besides His Own Presence, is the presence of mutually fulfilling relationships!)

IV. LEARNING TO DISCONNECT WHEN NECESSARY

(Expect Respect and you'll usually receive it! Act rejected and you will be!)

Disconnect from Disrespect.

Disconnect from disloyal people.

Disconnect from contentious people. (rebels)

Pr 24:21 - "My child, fear the LORD and the king, and don't associate with rebels. 22 For you will go down with them to sudden disaster..." Pr 22:10 - "Throw out the mocker, and fighting, quarrels, and insults will disappear."

Disconnect from abusive authority... but be sure its not just your own unteachable spirit causing you to do so. 3 John 1:9 NIV – "I wrote to the church, but Diotrophes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us. 10 So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church. 11 Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. 12 Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone--and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true." IN OTHER WORDS, the Apostle John was encouraging and authorizing Gaius to DISCONNECT from the abusive manipulative leader named Diotrophes and to CONNECT to Demetrius whose leadership was gentle and servant-like.

Disconnect from any friendship that has become abusive, manipulative, smothering, possessive or controlling over time.

Disconnect from any friendship that is hindering your progress towards your goals and Christlike living. Disconnect from any friend that is more of a temptation than a true friend. The Bible says, "Bad company corrupts good manners!" The Bible says that, "He that keeps company with the wise shall become wise, but the companion of a fool shall be destroyed!" Jesus said that it was better to CUT OFF your arm or PLUCK OUT your eye than to go to hell with two of each intact. You must RUTHLESSLY SEVER any relationship that is excess baggage on the way to your divine destiny.

V. BOTTOM LINE of all we have learned today:

Make it your QUEST to DISCOVER your DESTINY CONNECTIONS! Be open to God CONNECTING you!

And Dare to Disconnect from Disrespect!