

## **The Power of Relationships**

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10 X

**Text: Proverbs 13:20, 1 Corinthians 15:33**

The Bible is clear that those we associate with and those we allow into our **inner circle** have a profound effect on our lives. It is very clear to those who are 10 X that they must be intentional about who they keep close and those that they refuse to align themselves with.

**Proverbs 18:24, Proverbs 22:24-25, 2 Corinthians 6:14, 1 Corinthians 5:11-13,**

**Proverbs 27:17, Psalm 1:1-4**

Jesus had twelve close disciples and three that He kept even closer.

We become like those we keep **close** and surround ourselves with. **1 Kings 11:1-13**

The company we keep has the power to help us, make us better or limit us or ruin us.

Understanding this is not judgmental, it is practical and necessary if we desire to be and stay 10X. Solomon was once known as the wisest of men. Because he surrounded himself with ungodly wives he was led astray. He started out 10 X, he knew the favor and pleasure of God, but he died disobedient with a heart that was unlike his father David's. He was no longer fully devoted to God and His ways. IF there is ever an illustration of what **unequally** yoked looks like and the damage it can do, it is this.

Being unequally yoked is an issue for all relationships, not just marriage, but friendships, business and teams. While it may be true that opposites attract, they eventually will have **conflict** and friction because they are not in **agreement**. **Amos 3:3, Matthew 18:19**

Those who are 10X never underestimate the power of agreement. That means that those we surround ourselves with should share the same values, morals, goals, and direction. Amazing things happen when we take our **different** gifts, abilities and talents and work together for the glory of God.

It is important to understand that in God's Kingdom there is no such thing as a **lone** ranger. We are better together. **1 Corinthians 12:12-27** While each of us is unique, while each of us have our special gifts, talents, abilities, places, and temperaments, we have a **responsibility** to do our part with excellence, integrity and to the best of our ability. We are not only to surround ourselves with others who are 10X we have a responsibility to others to be 10X.

When we surround ourselves with people that are living at a higher level, we each **inspire** one another to be at our best and to keep improving. Elite athletes challenge, sharpen and at times push each other to be at their best. If you surround an elite athlete with those with a bad attitude, poor work ethic and foolishness it will hinder their development. If those who are 10X invite a few underperformers into their inner circle, it will inspire them to be better.

~ Remember it is hard to soar with the eagles if you are surrounded by turkeys. If you raise a turkey around eagles, it will believe that it can soar. If you raise a wolf with lions he will learn to roar instead of learning to howl.

~ Ella Wheeler Wilcox – There are two kinds of people on earth today, just two kinds of people, no more I say. Not the good and the bad, for ‘tis well understood, That the good are half-bad, and the bad are half-good. No! The two kinds of people on earth I mean, Are the people who lift and the people who lean. – The question we must determine is are we a lifter or a leaner.

David is a perfect example of someone who understood those he needed to **surround** himself with. First, David brought someone close who proved himself a loyal **friend**. That person was Jonathan. **1 Samuel 18:1-4** Everyone needs at least one friend that they connect with deeply, that have the same heart, desire and loyalty for one another. Someone who has your back even if it puts them in an awkward situation.

Never underestimate loyalty. The key element of loyalty is **trust** - refuse to keep anyone close that you cannot trust. On all levels. Faithfulness, truthfulness, confidentiality, tact, honesty and caring.

The next people that David drew close to was his **family** and others who found themselves in similar but different difficult situations. **1 Samuel 22:1-2** When David was going through the most difficult time in his life, he discovered how much family means. He learned this at a young age. The next thing he did is welcome other people who were going through difficult times and times of rejection. David brought in the misfits, the distressed, the debt-ridden, and the discontented. He surrounded himself with people who “**got**” him. He refused to write them off as weird and hopeless and because he believed in them, they believed in him. Never underestimate the relationships you make with people when they are at their lowest. The world saw misfits, David saw people with a likeminded heart and experience. These people walked with David at his worst and stuck with him through the best and through many battles. He was loyal to them, and they stayed loyal to him. These relationships are **precious** and they help those in difficult times stay 10X.

It is important to know that you **attract** what you are. David attracted misfits, but he also attracted **mighty** men and warriors. Because David was a giant killer, many of those closest to him also became giant killers. All his mighty men were people of **valor**. **2 Samuel 23:8-39** While these men made David better, he inspired, mentored and elevated them to become as good or better than he was. This is 10X relationship.

As man after God’s own heart David looked for things in the people that were close to him. He looked for:

- The **nurturer** - Jonathan is perfect example. People close to us should care for each other and take care of each other. They shouldn’t hold you back they should have you your back while you have theirs.
- Those that were **resourceful** and had courage and heart. He had men who fought giants, lions and gave their all until they couldn’t lift their arms, or their hand froze to a sword. This is why he chose Joab to lead his army. Joab found a way to get into a city and defeat its army. David surrounded himself with people who found a way, not those who made excuses.

- People who were character **driven**. Some people in David’s inner circle cost him dearly. His son Absalom is a perfect example.

When David was on his death bed, he warned Solomon to not allow Joab close because he killed Abner and Amasa. While Joab was a great warrior and general, he was also treacherous. He lacked character. What made him strong was also his greatest weakness.

**1 Kings 2:5-6, 2 Samuel 3:26-32, 2 Samuel 20:9-10**

- People like the prophet **Nathan** because David knew that he would speak out and speak up when his own character was in question. He surrounded himself with those who would speak truth to power and call for repentance.

It is interesting to note that when King Solomon filled all the positions in his government the one position that he did not fill was **prophet**. There was no one in Solomons inner circle that would hold his character accountable. This is why David is known as a man after God’s own heart who would do all His will and Solomon is only known for his wisdom and fall from favor. We all need someone in our lives who will remind us that God looks at the heart not just at our accomplishments. **1 Samuel 16:7** Who is your Nathan?

- Those who were **competent** - surround yourself with people who are capable and responsible. David’s mighty men were skillful and tenacious. Not everyone is a high achiever, but we must surround ourselves with people who desire to do well. Those who have energy and tenacity. Those who are resilient and know how to bounce back from setbacks and failure.

David surrounded himself with those who would **complete** each other not **compete** with one another. **Proverbs 11:14, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

John Wooden the Hall of Fame coach from UCLA said, “The main ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team.”

There are several people that we all need in our lives:

- **Intercessor** - Someone to pray with you and for you
- **Listener** - Someone to confide in, vent to and bounce ideas off of
- **Encourager** - All of us deal with discouragement at times – someone who will speak life to us.
- **Discerner** - No matter how good we are, we all miss things. Partner with people who know you, who see what you do not. Those who will stretch you and challenge you. We all need people in our life who are good at solving problems we can’t find a solution too.
- **Giver** - While we are always to be into others, we all need those that pour into us. Sometimes it is necessary to have people in your life that you can offer nothing to but attention and appreciation for all they do. It keeps you humble.

- Defender - All of us need people who will stand up for us, have our back and pick up the sword when we are too weary and tired to do it ourselves. All of us need help fighting our battles.
- Mentor - No matter how good you are there are always those you can learn from
- Protégé - Someone that you are intentionally helping to grow and develop