

DON'T LET ANYONE STEAL YOUR IDENTITY

Talking About Stuff That Matters
Rick & Kay Warren

"It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for."
Ephesians 1:11 (MSG)

WHO ARE YOU 'IN CHRIST'?

1. IN CHRIST, _____
"In Christ, [God] chose us before the world was made so that we would be his holy people. . . . Because of his love, God had already decided to make us his own children through Jesus Christ. That was what he wanted and what pleased him."
Ephesians 1:4-5 (NCV)

"You have been chosen by God himself." 1 Peter 2:9 (TLB)

"I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!" Romans 8:38-39 (CEV)

"It is from God alone that you have your life through Christ Jesus. He showed us God's plan of salvation; he was the one who made us acceptable to God."
1 Corinthians 1:30 (TLB)

2. IN CHRIST, _____
"The LORD who created you says . . . 'You are precious to me.'"
Isaiah 43:1, 4 (GNT)

"God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.' . . . So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV)

"You were rescued from the useless way of life you learned. . . . But you know you were not rescued by such things as silver or gold that don't last forever. You were rescued by the precious blood of Christ." 1 Peter 1:18-19 (CEV)

"You have been bought and paid for by Christ, so you belong to him."
1 Corinthians 7:23 (TLB)

3. IN CHRIST, _____
"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

"In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing." Ephesians 2:10 (NCV)

"For in Christ there is all of God in a human body; so you have everything when you have Christ, and you are filled with God through your union with Christ. He is the highest Ruler, with authority over every other power."
Colossians 2:9-10 (TLB)

"The capacity we have comes from God; it is he who made us capable of serving the new covenant." 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 (GNT)

"I have strength for all things in the One strengthening me."
Philippians 4:13 (BLB)

"I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency]." Philippians 4:13 (AMP)

4. IN CHRIST, _____
"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
Romans 8:1 (NIV)

"I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you." Isaiah 43:25 (GNT)

"In Christ we are set free by the blood of his death, and so we have forgiveness of sins. How rich is God's grace, which he has given to us so fully and freely."
Ephesians 1:7-8 (NCV)

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Next Step

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FORMING HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

Talking About Stuff That Matters
Rick Warren & Kurt Johnston

“The LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone.’” Genesis 2:18 (NIV)

TYPES OF FRIENDSHIPS

- **Casual Friends** can be the result of _____
- **But Close Friends** should be the result of _____

Fact: The closer I am to a person, the greater they influence my life. So, I need to CHOOSE my closest friends *wisely*.

“A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the ways of the wicked lead them astray.” Proverbs 12:26 (BSB)

WHO NOT TO CHOOSE AS A CLOSE FRIEND

God says some people you should avoid (a partial list):

- 1. PEOPLE WHO** _____
“Any fool can start arguments; the honorable thing is to stay out of them.”
Proverbs 20:3 (GNT)
- 2. PEOPLE WHO** _____
“Stay away from gossips—they tell everything.” Proverbs 20:19 (CEV)
- 3. PEOPLE WHO** _____
“Flattery is a trap; evil men are caught in it, but good men stay away and sing for joy.” Proverbs 29:5 (TLB)
- 4. PEOPLE WHO** _____
“Don’t make friends with people who have hot, violent tempers. You might learn their habits and not be able to change.” Proverbs 22:24-25 (GNT)
- 5. PEOPLE WHO** _____
“They may say . . . ‘Think of the great things we’ll get! We’ll fill our houses with all the stuff we take. Come, throw in your lot with us; we’ll all share the loot.’ My child, don’t go along with them! Stay far away from their paths.”
Proverbs 1:11, 13-15 (NLT)

- 6. BELIEVERS WHO** _____
Paul: “I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler.” 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 (NIV)

QUALITIES TO LOOK FOR IN YOUR CORE FRIENDS

- 1. CHOOSE FRIENDS WHO** _____
“Encourage one another and build each other up.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)
- 2. CHOOSE FRIENDS WHO** _____
“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is there for times of trouble.”
Proverbs 17:17 (ISV)
- 3. CHOOSE FRIENDS WHO** _____
“Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces.” Proverbs 13:20 (MSG)

FACTORS FOR FORMING FRIENDSHIPS

- 1. BE CHEERFUL:** _____
“A cheerful look brings joy to the heart.” Proverbs 15:30 (NLT)
“The LORD . . . is pleased with friendly words.” Proverbs 15:26 (GNT)
- 2. BE COMFORTABLE:** _____
Jesus: “The second command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’” Matthew 22:39 (NCV)
“We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don’t maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes.” 2 Corinthians 4:2 (MSG)
- 3. BE CONVERSATIONAL:** _____
“Don’t just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and in what they are doing.” Philippians 2:4 (TLB)
- 4. BE CONSIDERATE:** _____
“Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak.” James 1:19 (NRSV)

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”

Romans 12:15 (ESV)

5. BE CONSISTENT: _____

“There are ‘friends’ who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24 (TLB)

“A despairing man should have the kindness of his friend, even if he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.” Job 6:14 (BSB)

6. BE CONFIDENTIAL: _____

“A true friend will keep a secret.” Proverbs 11:13 (CEV)

“No one who gossips can be trusted . . . but you can put confidence in someone who is trustworthy.” Proverbs 11:13 (GNT)

7. BE CANDID: _____

“An honest answer is a sign of true friendship.” Proverbs 24:26 (GNT)

8. BE CHRISTLIKE: _____

“Accept each other just as Christ has accepted you.” Romans 15:7 (NLT)

Next Steps

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CREATING LIFE-SHAPING CONVERSATIONS

Talking About Stuff That Matters
Rick Warren

How to L.I.S.T.E.N. so that kids will speak up & How to S.P.E.A.K. so that kids will listen!

L _____
"Jesus felt genuine love for this man as he looked at him." Mark 10:21 (TLB)
"The LORD has given us eyes to see with and ears to listen with."
Proverbs 20:12 (GNT)

I _____
"When three of Job's friends heard of the tragedy he had suffered, they got together and traveled from their homes to comfort and console him. . . . Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. No one said a word to Job, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words." Job 2:11, 13 (NLT)

S _____
"Whoever answers before listening is both foolish and shameful."
Proverbs 18:13 (ISV)
"Mary arrived where Jesus was, and as soon as she saw him, she fell at his feet. 'Lord' she said, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died!' Jesus saw her weeping, and he saw how the people with her were weeping also; his heart was touched, and he was deeply moved. 'Where have you buried him?' he asked them. 'Come and see, Lord,' they answered. Jesus wept. 'See how much he loved him!' the people said." John 11:32-36 (GNT)

T _____
"Be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." 1 Peter 3:8 (NIV)
"We must bear the 'burden' of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others—of those who feel these things are wrong. Let's please the other fellow, not ourselves, and do what is for his good and thus build him up in the Lord." Romans 15:2 (TLB)

E _____
"A person's thoughts are like water in a deep well, but someone with insight can draw them out." Proverbs 20:5 (GNT)

N _____
"What a shame—yes, how stupid!—to decide before knowing the facts!"
Proverbs 18:13 (TLB)

"The mind of a person with understanding gets knowledge; the wise person listens to learn more." Proverbs 18:15 (NCV)

HOW TO S.P.E.A.K. SO THAT OTHER LISTEN TO YOU

S _____
"There is a time to be silent and a time to speak." Ecclesiastes 3:7 (NCV)

"There's a right time and way for everything, even though, unfortunately, we miss it for the most part." Ecclesiastes 8:6 (MSG)

P _____
Jesus: "I have not spoken on my own. Instead, the Father who sent me told me what I should say and how I should say it." John 12:49 (GW)

"Intelligent people think before they speak; what they say is then more persuasive."
Proverbs 16:23 (GNT)

"Everything you say should be kind and well thought out so that you know how to answer everyone." Colossians 4:6 (GW)

E _____
"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."
Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

A _____
"When wise people speak, they make knowledge attractive." Proverbs 15:2 (GNT)

"A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is." Proverbs 16:21 (GNT)

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19 (NIV)

K _____
"Those who are sure of themselves do not talk all the time. People who stay calm have real insight." Proverbs 17:27 (GNT)

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."
James 1:19 (NIV)

BEING A DISCIPLE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Talking About Stuff That Matters
Rick Warren

THE SPIRITUAL HAZARDS OF DIGITAL TOOLS

(smart phones, iPads, laptops, Internet devices, etc.)

1. _____
"So then, be very careful how you live. Don't live like foolish people but like wise people." Ephesians 5:15 (GW)
"These are evil times, so make every minute count." Ephesians 5:16 (CEV)
2. _____
"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." Romans 12:2 (NLT)
3. _____
"But stay away from those who have foolish arguments and talk about useless family histories and argue and quarrel about the law. Those things are worth nothing and will not help anyone." Titus 3:9 (NCV)
"You can be sure that on the Judgment Day you will have to give account of every useless word you have ever spoken." Matthew 12:36 (GNT)
4. _____
Jesus: "Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven." Matthew 6:1 (NLT)
5. _____
"Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." Galatians 1:10 (NIV)
6. _____
"Mary . . . was also seated at the Lord's feet, and was listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do the serving by myself? Then tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things.'" Luke 10:39-41 (NASB)

"Only one thing is important. Mary has chosen the better thing, and it will never be taken away from her." Luke 10:42 (NCV)

"So . . . whatever you do, do everything to the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31 (GW)

HOW CAN I USE MY SMART PHONE FOR GOD'S GLORY?

(Purpose Driven Technology!)

1. _____
"True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth." John 4:23 (NLT)
"All day long I put my hope in you." Psalm 25:5 (NLT)
"Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income." Proverbs 3:9 (TLB)
2. _____
"Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other."
Romans 12:10 (NLT)
"Encourage each other and give each other strength."
1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NCV)
3. _____
"Grow in spiritual strength and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18 (TLB)
"Keep me from looking at worthless things. Let me live by your Word."
Psalms 119:37 (NCV)
4. _____
"What can I give back to God for the blessings he's poured out on me?"
Psalms 116:12 (MSG)
5. _____
"Through Christ, God made peace between us and himself, and God gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with him. . . . So we have been sent to speak for Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:18, 20 (NCV)
"Publish [the LORD's] glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does." 1 Chronicles 16:24 (NLT)

WHEN YOU'RE HARASSED & BULLIED

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Jesus: "I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world." John 16:33 (MSG)

Jesus: "The world would love you if you belonged to it; but you don't—for I chose you to come out of the world, and so it hates you. Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave isn't greater than his master!' So since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you." John 15:19-20 (TLB)

HOW TO RESPOND TO HARASSMENT

- 1. RECOGNIZE** _____
"We are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces."
Ephesians 6:12 (GNT)
- 2. REMEMBER** _____
"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." 1 John 4:4 (NIV)

"When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. I praise God for what he has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?"
Psalm 56:3-4 (NLT)
- 3. REFUSE** _____
"If someone has done you wrong, do not repay him with a wrong. Try to do what everyone considers to be good. Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody. Never take revenge, my friends, but instead let God's anger do it. For the scripture says, 'I will take revenge, I will pay back, says the Lord.'" Romans 12:17-19 (GNT)
- 4. RESPOND** _____
"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21 (NIV)

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5:44 (NIV)
- 5. REFOCUS** _____

"If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, because it means God's Spirit rests on you." 1 Peter 4:14 (NIV)

- **IT MEANS GOD'S SPIRIT** _____
"The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name." Acts 5:41 (NIV)
- **IT MEANS** _____
"These troubles . . . won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever!"
2 Corinthians 4:17 (TLB)
- **IT MEANS** _____

- 6. REMEMBER** _____
Jesus: "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

"Since we are his children . . . if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share his glory." Romans 8:17 (GNT)

- 7. REMAIN** _____
"So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good." 1 Peter 4:19 (NIV)

"Everyone who wants to live as God desires, in Christ Jesus, will be persecuted."
2 Timothy 3:12 (NCV)

Jesus: "Everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life." Matthew 19:29 (NLT)

Jesus: "If you are ashamed of me and of my teaching in this godless and wicked day, then the Son of Man will be ashamed of you when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Mark 8:38 (GNT)

"Those who declare publicly that they belong to me, I will do the same for them before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32 (GNT)

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