

RELATIONAL WISDOM

July 17, 2022

INTRODUCTION

We are built for community: Flourishing is connected with community
Our lives are impacted by those we surround ourselves with
(Proverbs 13:20)

KEY POINT: Wisdom challenges us to do life in the context of a healthy community

FIVE WAYS WISDOM IS MANIFEST IN HEALTHY COMMUNITY

1. In healthy relationships, love is the guiding ethic (Prov. 17:9)

Love is the governing ethic of the Christian church whose definition is revealed in Christ's action (John 13:34-35)

1 Cor. 13:4-8a – often used in the context of marriage but is to be descriptive of Christian community

2. Healthy relationships deal courageously and graciously with issues which ruin (Prov. 27:5-6)

What is better (good): dealing with issues rather than ignoring them
Love provides a foundation to deal with the difficult

Dealing with issues through prayer, humility, and openness

3. Healthy relationships better others (Prov. 27:17)

Healthy relationships have a way of refining its participants
Making each other better

Living for something greater than self: the commitment of the relationship

4. Healthy relationships require intentionality (Prov. 27:10)

Friendship is an investment in the future

The role of the church: hospitality – making family and friends out of strangers – opening our hearts and our homes

5. Healthy relationships require consistency and constancy (Prov. 18:24)

Jesus: "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you so what I say." (John 15:13-14)

RESPONSE: Lord, help manifest wisdom in my relationships with others