

# To Know and be Known: Connecting with Others

*Galatians 5:25-6:5*

*“To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us.” -Tim Keller*

## I. Live by the Spirit

*“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”* This is imperative as we approach life. This is about prayerfully seeking God’s will and His wisdom in humility, knowing that His ways are not our ways.

*Matthew 26:41 - “The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

*John 6:63 - “The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn’t help at all.”*

## II. Conceit in two different ways

*“Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”*

Provoking = a self-righteous view where I’m better than you are.

Envy = an inferior view of ourselves compared to others.

The Gospel gives us a different approach where we are neither **superior** or **inferior**, but **confident** and **humble**. Confident because who I am in Christ, but humble because it’s Him that makes me who I am.

## III. Restoration

*“Brothers and sisters, if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual, restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so that you also won’t be tempted.”*

James 4:11-12, *“Don’t **criticize** one another, brothers and sisters. Anyone who **defames** or **judges** a fellow believer defames and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?”*

James 5:19, *“My brothers and sisters, if any among you strays from the truth, and someone turns him back, let that person know that whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”*

Judgements create distance. Where this is judgement, there is no compassion. Assessments seek clarity.

Consider the way you talk to others about others. Is it to help another or to tear someone down?

This is someone overtaken that needs help; not condemnation. Our motive should be restoration.

## IV. Carrying instead of judging one another’s burdens

*“Carry one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”* Burdens are different struggles, different wounds, and stories. Carrying another’s burdens is not telling others how, but lifting that load with them and fulfilling the law of Christ. Loving our neighbors as ourselves looks like helping them carry their burdens.

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

*“Most of the time we associate legalism with strict adherence to a specific set of rules, but legalism is not simply choosing the letter of the law over the spirit. Legalism is any attempt to model God’s attributes apart from a relationship with Him. Legalism is trying to be an image bearer without relying on the Image.” - Hannah Anderson*

## **V. Stewarding instead of comparing your own load**

*“For if anyone considers himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each person examine his own work, and then he can take pride in himself alone, and not compare himself with someone else. For each person will have to carry his own load.”*

*“...we are to assess our own opportunities (gifts and tests as God has afforded them) and our own responses to them. We should measure ourselves, in a sense, against ourselves. So then God has given each of us a different set of liabilities and opportunities, a different set of weaknesses and gifts, limits and strengths. These are our load - responsibility before God. We are therefore not to compare ourselves with others. We must look at our particular tests and duties and respond to them obediently.”*  
- Keller

*John 15:5, “Without Me, you can do nothing.”*

*“To be a Christian means to forgive the excusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.”*  
-C.S. Lewis

## **Blocks that keep us from knowing and being known**

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### **I. Lack of Safety**

- Carrying another's burdens means you help another carry their burdens; you don't judge their burden.
- We do not affirm living in sin, but we must first accept where someone is at to help them begin healing and grow deeper.
- Confidentiality creates safety.
- Learning to be quick to listen and slow to speak as James calls us to and ask sincere questions instead of giving answers is helpful.
- Risk being seen ourselves.

### **II. Lack of Healing from our Story**

- We all have a story, and from it we have developed our personality, both our strengths and our weaknesses, our gifts and our vulnerabilities.
- Everyone one of us have received messages along our journey that are not true of us according to God; we have agreed with them unknowingly, and we have reacted against them.
- We are called to be responsible for our own load, not compare our story either in superiority or in jealousy.

### **III. Individualism**

- There are huge dangers to sinful individualism.
- Healthy individual responsibility takes ownership and stewards that which is given by God.

### **Discussion Questions:**

What are some ways you hide from others?

What is a message you received growing up that you continue to believe? Remember, this is not about blaming, but ownership of how you internalized something; it may have not been a reality.

How can we counteract this message with the truth of the Gospel? What is the heart of God for you?