

MESSAGE NOTES



Series: Summer Daze
Message: God in Our Relationships
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: July 26th, 2026

²When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. ³When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. ⁴Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected. ⁶“Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected?” ⁷You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”
Genesis 4:2–7 (NLT)

Relationships don’t automatically get better over time... they require intentional effort.

⁴¹“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own?” ⁴²How can you think of saying, ‘Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.”

Luke 6:41–42 (NLT)

We all need to practice looking in the mirror before looking out the window.

Some important things to keep in mind as we spend more time with family and friends:

¹⁴Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. ¹⁵Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

Hebrews 12:14–15 (NLT)

¹¹Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs.

Proverbs 19:11 (NLT)

¹⁵Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)

³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³²Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:31–32 (NLT)

TAKE HOME SHEET



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Look at the passages from the message and prayerfully consider your friendships, past and present, then ask God to help you see where you can change and develop to become a better friend. Asking a trusted friend to help you with this is a great idea!

Think about a relationship in your life that has deteriorated or broken.

What happened?

As you look back on it, what could you have done differently? Remember to use the mirror before looking out the window at others.

Do I forgive wrongs or hold grudges?

Do I avoid difficult but important conversations to keep the peace?

Do I express my opinions without really considering the impact on others?

Do I ask questions to learn about others and really understand them?

Do I take the initiative to investigate when a friendship seems out of sync?

Do I pray for those around me and ask God to help me be the friend they need?

Do I look for ways to genuinely represent Jesus to others - even the difficult ones!