RELATIONAL
RELATIONSHIPS
PEACE AND UNITY
RMPP EVENT 47

SCHEDULE

Welcome and Zoom Etiquette

Opening Prayer

Speaker Introduction
Peter Dekker

Message
Relational Relationships; Peace and Unity

Q&A and Discussion

Breakout Rooms

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RELATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS: PEACE AND UNITY

SYNOPSIS

In a world filled with conflict and division from nations to our own families, we are called to bear the marks of peace and unity in our lives as followers of Jesus, especially in His Church. How can we follow Jesus into peace and unity in our relationships and influence our communities toward the peace of Christ?

| *Event Messages and Devotional Booklets*

You can find RMPP messages and devotional booklets from events past and present at: https://themstproject.com/events

| *Scripture Reflection*

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. - *Ephesians 4:1-3 (NLT)*

EVENT 47

| *Questions to Consider*

What comes to mind when you think of Christian peace and unity?

What does the Bible say peace and unity actually look like?

Who is someone I need to reconcile with, even if we continue to disagree?

What will it look like for me to die to myself and love those around me?

| *Recommended Reading*

Ephesians *(peace and unity in Christ and through Christ is a fundamental theme in this book)*

Pursuing Peace
Robert D. Jones

Why Is Christian Unity So Hard?
Desiring God
https://bit.ly/4ifuVFj

NOTES

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

DEVOTIONAL 1

What truths and tools does the Bible give us when it comes to pursuing peace and unity in relationships?

Conflict is an inevitable part of human relationships. Whether in friendships, marriages, families, or churches, disagreements can easily arise and divide people. Yet, the Bible consistently calls us to pursue peace and unity as a reflection of God's nature and character.

Jesus himself declared, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9) True peace doesn't mean the absence of conflict, rather, it means seeking reconciliation, understanding, and love even amidst disagreement. Unity in the body of Christ reflects the unity between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (John 17:21).

As I reflect on my own life, I remember a time when a misunderstanding between two brothers in our ministry

nearly caused division. Both were passionate about serving God, but pride and miscommunication created a rift. Through prayer and open dialogue, we turned to Scripture for guidance. Ephesians 4:2 – 3 reminded us to "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." As we obeyed this, truth and healing came and our relationship grew stronger than before.

The Bible provides four key truths and tools for pursuing peace and unity in our relationships:

1. Love is the foundation of peace.
Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35). Without love, every attempt at unity becomes shallow. True love is sacrificial, patient, and kind (1 Corinthians 13:4–7).

2. Forgiveness restores broken relationships.
Colossians 3:13 urges us to "forgive as the Lord forgave you." Forgiveness frees both the offended and the offender. Holding grudges poisons peace, but forgiveness invites healing.

3. Humility preserves unity.
Philippians 2:3 – 4 says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition

or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." Humility allows us to listen, to admit wrongs, and to build bridges rather than walls.

4. Prayer anchors peace in God's presence.
Philippians 4:6–7 reminds us that peace is not man-made but a gift from God. When we bring our anxieties and conflicts to Him in prayer, His peace guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Living out these truths transforms how we handle relationships. The early church modeled this beautifully in Acts 2:44–47: believers lived in unity, shared everything, and grew together in faith. Their unity attracted others to the gospel because people saw Christ's peace in their relationships.

As followers of Christ today, our call is the same. We are ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). Whether in our homes, workplaces, or ministries, we must lead with love, forgive freely, humble ourselves, and pray continually. Peace and unity begin within us before they flow through us on to others.

May we daily surrender our relationships to God, seeking to build peace that reflects the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Yusuf is a passionate pro-life advocate from Nigeria. He is the Founder and Director of Ayubson Life Foundation, an organization dedicated to empowering young people to defend the dignity of human life, uphold family values, and support the less privileged. Yusuf also serves as the MST West Africa Regional Director.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. What relationship in your life currently needs peace and restoration?
2. Which of the four biblical tools, love, forgiveness, humility, or prayer do you need to apply most right now?
3. How can you influence others around you to pursue unity in Christ?

| *Read*

Colossians 3:14

| *Reflect on This*

"On the concept of unity - Jesus' most pressing concern before leaving the earth was our unity. He was looking ahead, to every generation of believer. And as he prayed, he made it clear that our witness as his body in this fractured, messed-up, chaotic world would depend on our love for another." - *Ed Galisewski*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PURSUE PEACE?

DEVOTIONAL 2

In a time where disconnection and chaos are common in relationships, how can we pursue peace, thereby setting an example for all?

What does it mean to pursue peace?

My YouTube and social media seem to know exactly which content I like to consume. Through algorithmic learning, my devices expose me to greater degrees of selected content. Though I hate to admit it, my screen time is much higher than would be considered healthy.

I attribute this to the fact that throughout the day, at least one of these platforms is streaming its content directly into my consciousness. So, whether I'm cooking dinner, cleaning my living room, folding laundry or driving my car, I'm being delivered a curated, targeted message. My content of choice is of the political-current event-latest outrage type. I'm up

to date on the war in Ukraine, the Israel-Palestinian conflict. I know what's happening in Chicago, the political shifting in New York City, LA and closer to home, Toronto. I'm told that Canada is headed towards a massive recession, the currency is at its lowest point in years, and violent crime is at record highs. Then there's the massive immigration issues, the fentanyl crisis, the increased cost of living. The list goes on, ad nauseam.

My mind boggles, my thoughts race, I feel my anger flare and my anxiety oscillates from high to very high. I find myself angry with others, unable to love as I'm called to and impatient in my friendships and relationships. That's what a steady diet of fear-based content will do to a person. It's a miserable way to live. It's a way of life far from the deep peace that Jesus Christ offers us.

The issue is, I'm not meant to be carrying the world's problems. I'm not built to consume and process every atrocity, every tragedy and every complex socio-economic issue. Regardless, in my own feeble way, I try to, anyway. I tell myself I like to be informed, that it's good to be knowledgeable, up-to-date and politically savvy. But in reality, what I long for is peace. Peace, in the Biblical sense, is a wholeness, completeness and well-being that arises from a

close, intimate relationship with the person of Christ. He is, after all, called "The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6) and when in right relationship with him, he offers us a "peace that passes understanding (Phil 4:7)." However, peace will not come from passivity; instead, as Christians we must actively pursue peace.

The formula is simple and laid out in Philippians 4: 8-9: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

What Paul is describing here in Philippians is the very antithesis of my aforementioned social media consumption. Whereas the world presents an unending stream of doom, we are instructed to move against that, be selective in our consumption, be mindful of what we set our minds upon. When we are active in our pursuit of peace, we are told that then the God of peace will be with us. Essentially, Paul is instructing us to draw close to God by setting our minds on the things of God. James 4:8 simply states, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." As I move towards the Prince of Peace by setting my mind on the lovely, admirable,

excellent and praiseworthy, the Prince of Peace will move towards me. The Bible admonishes us to actively pursue peace.

I was recently challenged by a wise friend to put an immediate stop to my consumption of news and related punditry. The challenge was, for the next 30 days, consume only things that bring life. In essence, to practice exactly what Philippians 4:8-9 advises. The implication of fulfilling this challenge is to see how the God of Peace makes his peace available to me. I extend that challenge to the reader. Actively pursue peace for the next month. Memorize scripture, sing songs of praise, read the words of saints, past and present. Pursue that which is beautiful and lovely and then taste the reality of true, deep-seated peace that God promises and Christ offers.

Rob is a Canadian, living in Whitby, Ontario. Rob has been a periodic contributor to The MST Project, a participant in The Pursuit of Purity program and recently returned from MST's 2025 Fundraising Tour in Tampa, Florida.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. Reflect on your daily consumption of media. Is what your consuming leading you towards the Prince of Peace or are you lead farther astray?
2. What are some creative ways to practice Philippians 4:8-9? Be specific in your examples.
3. As we develop deeper peace how will that positively affect our interpersonal relationships?

| *Read*

1 Corinthians 1:10

| *Reflect on This*

"Be united with other Christians. A wall with loose bricks is not good. The bricks must be cemented together." – *Corrie Ten Boom*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEEK UNITY?

DEVOTIONAL 3

In a time where relational breakdowns are common, how can we seek unity, thereby setting an example for all?

The Oxford Dictionary defines unity as the state of being united or joined as a whole. The Bible has a simple and clear analogy to help us understand unity.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12–30, it not only speaks about the spiritual gifts, it also presents a beautiful picture of unity in the body of Christ. I have outlined seven points that will help us understand the meaning and importance of seeking to live in unity:

1. I am different from others but we are one in Christ.
In verses 12 –13: Just as the body consists of many members and each one is different from the other, we too must understand that we are different and unique but we should work together for the common good of the body of Christ.

2. I can do many things but I can't do everything.

In verses 14–21: Each one of us has a designated role and function in the body. We cannot do the functions of other members of the body and likewise, they cannot execute our functions. Each of us must understand that we need the other members of the body to complete us. No one can say to the other, 'I have no need of you.'

3. Understand that every member in the body is important.

In verses 22–23: We have the tendency of thinking that members in the body are of less importance than others and we tend to belittle their functions and treat them with little regard. But the Bible reminds us that "The parts of the Body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty."

4. We must agree with God and accept to live in unity.

In verses 24–25: "But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body."

Unity is not our idea; it's God's plan for us. God desires that we all live in unity regardless of all the divisions in this world. It's through unity that we can work together to fulfill God's will in our lives and together we can work to reach the world with the gospel of salvation and accomplish the great commission.

5. We must have the same care for one another.

In verses 26–27: "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." As members of one body, we must understand that we are one family united by the blood of Jesus Christ. Caring for one another is the true definition of love and unity.

6. Honor one another.

In verses 28–30: "And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers…" In seeking unity, we must learn to honor every member in the body of Christ – honoring them means that we acknowledge God's call in their lives and in humility we allow and encourage these members to operate in their God-given calling for the common good of the body of Christ.

7. Love binds us in unity.

We can't talk about unity without talking about love! Because, love is the binding factor in unity. This is how the Bible defines love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: "Love is patient and kind; love

does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude." If we seek to live in unity, we must love others sincerely from the heart.

Today, are you loving others sincerely?

Peter is currently serving as the MST South Sudan National Leader as well as an Associate Pastor at the Christian Disciples Making Church in Juba, South Sudan. Peter's wife and children lives in the neighboring country of Uganda where they went seeking refuge from civil war in 2016.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. In seeking to foster unity in your family, church and community, what do you think is your role in making unity a reality?
2. What will you do when a divisive situation arises in your fellowship and you are tempted to take part in it?
3. What are some ways that you can commit or recommit to seek unity in your relationship with family, fellow believers and your workmates?

| *Read*

Psalm 133:1

| *Reflect on This*

"Jesus shed His blood for the remission of sins so that we could flow together in unity." - *Dr. Henry W. Wright*

IT WILL BE HARD

DEVOTIONAL 4

Many things make pursuing peace and seeking unity in a relationship challenging, complex, and sometimes overwhelming, but don't give up!

Peace and unity are two concepts that I hold dear in my heart. I am a natural-born peacekeeper. When I have taken personality tests, they usually point to this fact about me. Sometimes I desire peace in my life more than anything. And that is a problem. This desire for peace can become a negative thing and even an idol in my heart. Even though being a peacekeeper might seem like a good thing, it is not what God calls us to be. He calls us to be a peace MAKER. Keeping the peace requires little effort, but much concession. If we only seek to keep what peace we can, we will find ourselves giving up what is truly valuable. Peacemaking, however, takes work. It is the process of changing a situation from chaos and division to one of peace and unity.

If someone wants to step into the difficult calling of making

peace, they have to embrace a very powerful, but uncomfortable tool: conflict. Oftentimes, someone who leans toward keeping the peace can view conflict as the enemy. Conflict seems to disturb the peace. However, those of us who seek peace will find that conflict is not the enemy of peace, but rather the tool by which peace is forged.

When I was first married, I was not used to conflict in my home. I especially was not used to conflict with my new wife. For several weeks or even months, I thought that there was something wrong with our marriage because we would have disagreements regularly. Then one night we had our pastor and his wife over for dinner. During the course of conversation, the pastor was explaining that his wife traveled for work from time to time and when she came back, they would only have a short time to catch up on all of the scheduling conversations, quality time, and necessary conflict that needed to happen.

I asked the pastor to pause and asked, "What do you mean 'necessary' conflict? Do you mean to say that some conflict in a marriage is necessary?" We all had a good laugh and he said, "Yes, conflict in a marriage is normal. You are two human beings living in close quarters together. There will inevitably be some conflict. The important thing is to have healthy conflict. No name calling or lying to get your way and always 'fight fair.'

This was a revelation to me because, you see, I had grown up without any siblings close to my age and my parents did not argue in front of me. And because of that, they didn't settle the argument and reaffirm their connection, love, and partnership in a healthy way in front of me either. I had no siblings to argue with and no demonstration of arguing from my parents. To me, arguing was a foreign concept and an indication of unhealthy relationships. In reality, the opposite is true. Effective conflict is one of the ways that a relationship stays healthy. I started to realize that arguing and conflict are the ways by which peace and unity are achieved.

You cannot expect two or more people to agree on everything all the time, so there must be a way to produce peace and unity between them. This is where the work of conflict comes in. The timid must be bold to initiate conflict where it is needed. In the same way, those of us who are more comfortable with conflict must ensure that they are only fighting the battles that need to be fought. In fact, some of us may thrive in conflict. We might have a natural leaning towards it and even enjoy it. However, for those of us who get satisfaction from conflict, we must control our urges and make sure that we are engaging in conflict constructively and seek the end goal of peace from conflict; not merely trying to be right or win the argument. This can also be hard for someone who enjoys conflict just for the thrill.

Over the years my wife and I have learned how to be better at conflict through practice. We have both stepped into the calling that God has for us to be healthy conflict initiators. We are not perfect at it, but we have consistently striven to improve over the years, and we have been blessed along the way.

In the Bible we are given the goal of seeking peace and unity. They are lifted up as good things and result in blessings for us. But it doesn't say that it will be easy. We are told to put effort into it. We must work for it against our fleshly inclinations to passively maintain a calm environment or to rashly engage in needless quarreling. Don't give up. It is worth it.

Nicholas is a husband and father of two boys. He is passionate about seeing men walk in God-given freedom and purpose. He has been involved with MST in various ways, but in June, 2024 Nicholas moved to Thailand for the purpose of joining MST as staff. He is originally from Maryland, USA.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. What unhealthy habits, situations, or practices exist in some of your relationships?
2. How can you initiate healthy conflict to address unhealthy relationship issues?
3. Where do you initiate or instigate conflict in your relationships that is not productive or loving?

| *Read*

Ephesians 4:3

| *Reflect on This*

"These may feel like evil times. Unity may feel impossible. Peace may feel like a pipe dream. But there is a way to love life and pursue peace: Trust like Jesus; respond like Jesus; live like Jesus; love like Jesus." – *J.D. Greear*

PEACE AND UNITY NEED TRUST

DEVOTIONAL 5

For peace and unity to be sustainable in any relationship, trust is needed. How can you cultivate deeper trust, thereby creating deeper peace and unity?

Peace and unity need trust. Healthy trust must be earned. It comes from relating to someone over time and seeing that they are consistently honest, faithful, and reliable. There are also different levels of trust. I have friends that I trust to hold my deepest secrets. They walk with me to Jesus and help me share the most shameful parts of my heart with Him. They also share in my greatest joys.

I have other friends that I like, but I wouldn't share even the most basic information that I want to keep secret. I still trust them on some level. I know they aren't going to try to get me to engage in sinful or harmful activities, but I don't trust them with deep personal information. I have many other friends in between these two levels of trust. There are many different levels of friendship and many different levels of trust. And

that's OK.

Having peace and unity doesn't mean that you will always agree on everything, or that there won't be misunderstandings or wounds. There will be disagreements and offenses even in the healthiest relationships. If we handle those situations properly, they can be an opportunity to develop a deeper trust. Remember, developing trust is a process that takes a lot of time. Offenses and misunderstandings can increase during that time, but if we handle offenses properly, they can deepen the trust as the relationship continues.

In Matthew 18:15 (NLT), Jesus tells us, "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back." Developing trust means that we can respectfully talk about the offenses the other person may have caused, and hear the other person's heart. Both people need to be willing to develop a curiosity about the other's feelings and apologize when they have caused an offense. Both need to be willing to respectfully approach the other when they have been wounded with honesty and grace. Honesty with a heart to hear and understand the other person builds trust. Admitting when we are wrong and making amends helps heal the wounds we've inflicted on the other person. It shows him or her that he or she

can be honest with us and we will respect him or her enough to accept responsibility for what we've done wrong.

As I look at the deep level of trust in my relationship with my wife, I remember the times when one of us has gone to the other and respectfully shared what the other did that wounded us. We've resisted the urge to become defensive, and took the time to hear the other's heart and ask clarifying questions. We've kept the discussion focused on the issue and took special care not to attack the character of the other.

One of the most profound comments my wife has ever said came during a time of vulnerable discussion. My wife said that even if we continue to disagree, if she knew that I made the effort to hear and understand her heart, that she would have a sense of peace. That set me free from the pressure to come to a false agreement, and from being afraid of what would happen if we continued to disagree.

I knew that if we both treated each other respectfully in times of disagreements, our challenges would eventually work themselves out. Those times have deepened our trust in each other and brought more peace and unity in our relationship. And the same can be true for your relationships too!

Dan is the Executive Director of Reconciliation Ministries of Michigan. He is an ordained minister and licensed professional counselor specializing in helping people overcome sexual brokenness, sexual abuse, and trauma. Dan has been in the ministry for over thirty years and lives with his wife, Marianne, in Detroit, Michigan, USA.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. What helps you build trust in your close relationships?
2. Do you tend to be defensive if a friend comes to you and respectfully tells you that you offended him or her? If so, why do you think you become defensive?
3. Have you ever had a disagreement with a friend that actually deepened your level of trust and unity after it was resolved?

| *Read*

Romans 12:9-10

| *Reflect on This*

"Trust is the fruit of a relationship in which you know you are loved." – *William P. Young*

AS FAR AS IT'S UP TO YOU...

DEVOTIONAL 6

It might be easy to think that the need for peace and unity in a relationship depends on the other person taking the first step, but what if you need to? Will you do it?

In the world that we live in today where people have come to the point where they get offended so easily, and many times for no reason at all, and where many people feel entitled, it is difficult for us to find unity in any setting. The world's desire is for instant gratification, what's good for each person without taking anyone else's feelings into consideration, and then holding on to hurts, which causes unforgiveness, which then turns into bitterness that separates us. It's bad enough when we see this kind of division within the world, but unfortunately it is also prevalent within our churches, within our families, and with our brothers and sisters in Christ. So how do we promote unity in these areas with humility and with forgiveness?

For men, myself included, we are made to be protectors, problem

fixers and to be the head of our household. Well, that's all good but when it's taken to an extreme and you begin to depend more on yourself than you do on the Father, you'll find yourself living in pride and getting easily offended when you don't get your way. Men like to control! But being in control is not what we are called to do in our life as a Christian. Our dependency first and foremost must be on God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. When we attempt to do things with our own knowledge and in our own strength, we will fail!

So, let's look at what Biblical humility is because many Christians don't know what it means. Humility is more than just being modest; it's a deep recognition of our dependence on God and our connection to others. It reminds us that we're all equal in God's eyes. It reminds us that we are to be servants to all. Let's look at some Scripture verses and discover how embracing humility can transform us. In Proverbs 15: 33 it states, "Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honor." When we think about Bible verses that encourage humility, we quickly realize that serving others is a powerful expression of that humility. It teaches us to prioritize others' needs, our neighbors, our coworkers, our families and our enemies. We see that serving isn't about being recognized or being praised, it's about offering ourselves freely and happily. And then humility opens our hearts to serve others as

Jesus did, and how He endlessly gave himself to benefit others. So, as we grow in humility, it becomes easier and we become more willing to support and uplift those around us.

Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Galatians 5:13, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

Ephesians 4:2, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

And then James 3:13, "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom."

And finally, Colossians 3:12, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, wholly and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

These verses are not a suggestion telling us it would be nice if we lived this way. They are direct instructions of how we are to live. If we live in our own pride and arrogance, we will never learn to be humble. Putting others first is what Jesus expects of

us. So how does forgiveness come into play here? Let's look at some verses that speak of forgiveness.

Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Luke 6:37, "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned: forgive, and you will be forgiven."

And finally, Colossians 3: 13 "Bearing with another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive."

Again, these scriptures are not suggestions. These are direct instructions straight from God's Word as to how we are to live. Forgiveness is not just a command - it is a necessity. Unforgiveness causes bitterness, bitterness causes hurt and unforgiveness separates us from Jesus.

So how does humility and forgiveness work together? If we are offended or if we offend someone else, then we immediately deal with that offense and forgive one another.

That hurt goes away and the bitterness has no way to take root in us and cause us to fall. It also keeps the offended and the offender from allowing the "offense" to grow into something that it is not. Many times with unforgiveness, a small problem becomes a mountain.

It takes humility to forgive; it takes humility to ask for forgiveness. But when you do, the blessings that come out of it are so much greater than being right. I want to share a quick story regarding me and my children years ago as they were growing up. When I would discipline my children, many times I would do it in anger. The Holy Spirit laid it on my heart that I needed to write a letter asking forgiveness of my children.

Much prayer and seeking the Holy Spirit went into preparing that letter, and the main thing that stood out to me was that the whole time that I disciplined them in this manner, I was professing to be a Christian. I was in church every time the door was open, and my children were there with me. While contemplating this, what I saw is, how did my Christian witness as a father affect how my children looked at God as their Heavenly Father as they were growing up. I would say that they probably looked at God as someone who, when they did something wrong, was going to come down hard and heavy on them instead of the loving Father that He is.

The letter created many open doors for me and my relationship with my children. Had I not done what I was instructed to do by the Holy Spirit, I would never have received those blessings. I had to humble myself to ask for forgiveness and I've received it.

Just as my Heavenly Father forgives me! I would encourage you to look at your relationships and see if you have any unresolved issues that would cause unforgiveness or hurts that would cause others to stumble.

Luis is a layman that lives in Southern Oregon and a person with a deep love for God and a deep love for others. Desiring to share with others the lessons and blessings that God has given him over the years!

| *Discussion Questions*

1. Are you humble, or are you prideful?
2. Are you a servant to all?
3. Are you a forgiving person?

| *Read*

1 John 2: 6

| *Reflect on This*

“What ever disunites man from God, also disunites man from man” - *Edmund Burke*

LOOKING BACK...

DEVOTIONALS 1-6

During this connect group cycle, we pray that you have been challenged, encouraged, and inspired as you pursue greater sexual purity, spiritual wholeness, and Christlike maturity in your life. We want to encourage you to now take some time to reflect on the last six devotionals and see how you can consistently apply the many truths that have been shared and that you have learned in your life.

Devotional 1

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 2

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 3

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 4

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 5

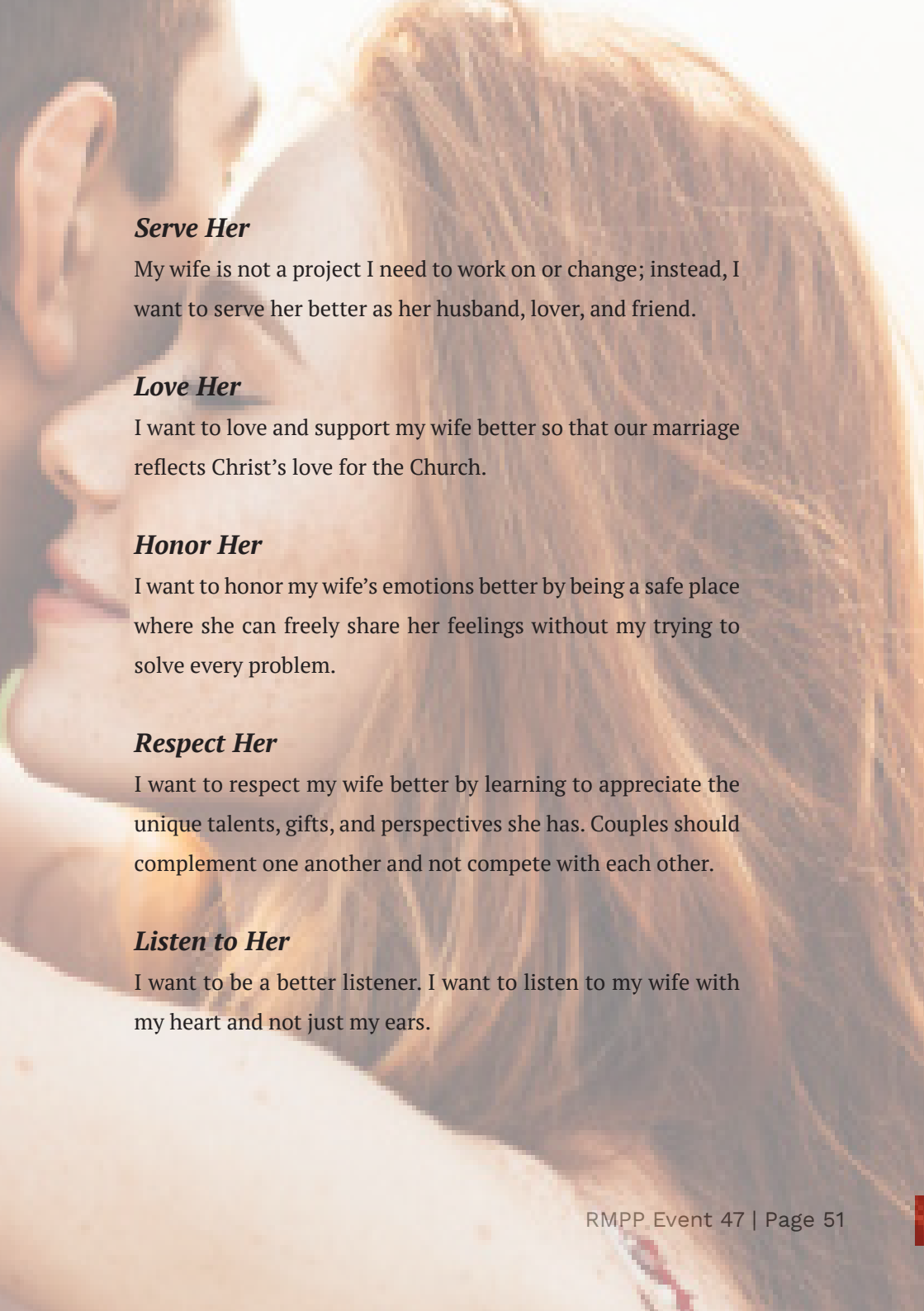
What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 6

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

FAST AND PRAY FOR YOUR WIFE

Each month, we encourage you to set aside a time to fast and pray for your wife (or future wife) for one or all of the following points. As husbands (or future husbands) commit to praying and fasting for their wives, we will see a significant spiritual breakthrough and a spiritual legacy created.



Serve Her

My wife is not a project I need to work on or change; instead, I want to serve her better as her husband, lover, and friend.

Love Her

I want to love and support my wife better so that our marriage reflects Christ's love for the Church.

Honor Her

I want to honor my wife's emotions better by being a safe place where she can freely share her feelings without my trying to solve every problem.

Respect Her

I want to respect my wife better by learning to appreciate the unique talents, gifts, and perspectives she has. Couples should complement one another and not compete with each other.

Listen to Her

I want to be a better listener. I want to listen to my wife with my heart and not just my ears.

INTRODUCING RMPP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

| *What Is RMPP?*

Real Men Pursuing Purity (RMPP) is a community of men who are committed to growing in integrity, purity and wholeness through relevant teachings, accountability, mentoring and honest dialogue. You might not be sure that you really need to be part of a community like this because you don't struggle with compulsive addictions or sexual sin. While it is very important for many men to focus primarily on resisting sexual temptation and sin, we want to inspire and challenge you to pursue more. Although growing in purity is a big part of the vision for RMPP, it's much more than that. It's also learning about deep-rooted insecurities, developing proper work boundaries, embracing our identity in Christ, confronting fears and anxiety, expressing ourselves emotionally in a healthy way, and pursuing holiness in a safe environment with like-minded brothers. We believe that when we invite Him into these areas, He will extend His healing hand and bring about wholeness. Max Lucado says this very well.

EST. 2014

"Our Savior kneels down and gazes upon the darkest acts of our lives. But rather than recoil in horror, he reaches out in kindness and says, "I can clean that if you want."

We are men who are not willing to settle for a life of spiritual mediocrity. We choose to relentlessly pursue greater depths of purity and wholeness for ourselves and for our families. Welcome to the RMPP community.

| *How does RMPP support the local church?*

RMPP does not intend to replace or represent a church; it only creates a safe place for men who want to stay active in their own church community. When a man joins the RMPP community he joins other like-minded men who desire to pursue greater spiritual growth and Christ-likeness. He is choosing to walk out in greater honesty and vulnerability. He is choosing to pursue purity in all aspects of his life. Aspects such as deep-rooted insecurities, developing proper work

boundaries, embracing our identity in Christ, confronting fears and anxiety, expressing ourselves emotionally in a healthy way, and pursuing holiness in a safe environment.

We then pray that as these men grow in greater maturity that they would influence their families. That they would impact their communities and their work places, and that they would be an example for other men in their home church. We believe that as men take hold of the awesome and holy call to live lives that reflect Christ, that the church will be inspired and the world will take notice.

| *What happens next?*

If you have ever attended a men's retreat, you probably remember being deeply impacted by worship, challenged by teaching, and being in community with many men who shared your excitement and enthusiasm for growth and change. A few weeks or months down the road, the gathering became a distant memory as you settled back into the routines of daily life. We don't want to create just another mountain top experience. We are committed to creating a long-term mentoring relationship for everyone who attends an event. That is why you are holding this devotional book in your hands. As you flip through these pages you will see that there devotionals with corresponding

questions. Each devotional is meant to solidify the teaching of the event by encouraging and challenging you, as well as helping to stimulate discussion through thought provoking questions, verses and quotes.

| *Who writes the devotionals?*

Christian men from around the world have written these devotionals and have overcome real issues in their life through God's grace, goodness, mercy and love. We hope and pray that their testimonies and stories inspire, challenge and point you to Christ.

| *What are RMPP connect groups?*

RMPP connect groups are a safe place for men to pursue both purity and wholeness within an environment of peer support and encouragement. The journey to greater purity and wholeness is a journey that involves inviting other men to walk alongside of you. It is a place where you can share your prayer requests, victories, and struggles and where you can be heard, prayed for and challenged to grow in all areas of life. A connect group is designed to be a support system for you for as long as you want.

During your time in a connect group you will be:

***Challenged*:** You will be challenged to grow in your love for Biblical truth. The men in your group will challenge you to grow in your knowledge and application of God's Word thereby enabling you to stand firm in the midst of life's trials.

***Encouraged*:** You will be encouraged to persevere when life, work, and numerous responsibilities may seem overwhelming. The men in your group will support you through prayer, encouragement and a listening ear.

***Inspired*:** You will be inspired to pursue greater spiritual growth and Christ-likeness. While pursuing Christ-likeness may not always be easy, it will also be worth it. The men in your group will be there to inspire you on that journey.

***Accountable*:** The men in your group, as well as your group leader, will support you and hold you accountable as you pursue greater freedom and victory. Be assured that whatever you share in your group will be strictly confidential.

| *When are the events held?*

RMPP events are held online 4x a year in February, May, August, and November.

| *Who can attend?*

RMPP events are open to all men worldwide.

| *What about privacy?*

Because of the sensitive nature of RMPP events, video or audio recording by participants is not allowed. Also, details of personal testimonies are not to be published via email, social media, or in any other form. Thank you for contributing to a safe and secure environment that helps build honesty and vulnerability.

| *Who started RMPP?*

Real Men Pursuing Purity was founded in 2014 and is an initiative of The MST Project.

MEET THE TEAM

THE MST GLOBAL BOARD

Christian Lenty is the founder and director of The MST Project, a ministry that seeks to mentor men into a pursuit of sexual purity, spiritual wholeness, and Christlike maturity. Christian has lived in Thailand for over 21 years and resides in Bangkok with his wife.

Rex DeKoning is the 60-year old husband and father of a large family. A former nurse and pastor, he now works in Thailand with New Counseling Service as a counselor. Rex has experienced great healing of addictive behaviors after he confessed everything and began to live an accountable life. Rex is highly motivated to inspire other men to seek out a mentor, as it has helped him to walk freely, build honesty and vulnerability.

Nick Chilver is married and is part of a blended family containing 6 children. He is grateful for the people God has brought into his life and across his path. And as he continues to learn to better reflect Him, it is his prayer that God will grant

him the privilege of helping others on the path to freedom and into the Light. He resides in Thailand with his wife.

Mike B. Wood is married to his wonderful wife of 28 years. He is a Pastoral Counselor in the area of sexual recovery therapy. He is a man in process, passionate about bringing men together to share life together. This is where we study God's Word together and share the challenges we face. This inspires us to accept what God has freely given us: His love, mercy, grace and acceptance. He and his wife have lived in Thailand for 18 years.

Steve Odera has been happily married to Liz for the last 43 years and they have two wonderful adult children. After serving as a pastor in Bangkok, Thailand, for seven years, Steve returned to his native Kenya in 2023, where he and Liz are involved in the family enrichment ministry – their sweet spot - in their local church.

EVENT DATES AND RESOURCES

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

| *2026 Event Dates and Zoom ID*

Mark your calendars, plan to attend, and invite a friend to one or all of the events below.

Event 48: February 21
Event 49: May 16
Event 50: August 22
Event 51: November 21

Zoom ID for all events: 561 433 8821

| *The Pursuit of Purity*

The book, The Pursuit of Purity, is meant to transform the way you think and live, putting you on a lifetime path of purity and wholeness leading to consistent victory.

***W*:** themstproject.com/pathway-to-purity
***E*:** hello@themstproject.com

THANK YOU

| *With Gratitude*

We would like say thank you to the following for their contribution to RMPP.

Financial Donors

Thank you for generously providing funding that allows for RMPP events, seminars, and translation of materials.

Devotional Authors

Thank you for writing devotionals that inspire, encourage and challenge each of us to pursue greater sexual purity, spiritual wholeness and Christlike maturity.

| *Scriptural Oversight Team*

RMPP has a Scriptural Oversight Team consisting of several pastors from local churches that review all devotionals for theological integrity.

CONNECT GROUPS

RMPP connect groups are a safe place for men to pursue sexual purity, spiritual wholeness, and Christlike maturity within an environment of peer support, encouragement, and accountability.

Connect groups are held worldwide on a weekly basis. To inquire about joining a group or to find out more information please email **hello@themstproject.com**.

If you are interested in starting an RMPP connect group at your church, men's ministry, Bible study, college group, etc., please contact us. We'd love to support you and have the resources to help you.

JOIN ONE
TODAY!

NOVEMBER 2025