

Connecting Series: **Connecting Relationally**

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 05/05/2019



I. Uniters & Dividers

II. Gathering the Disciples

John 1:43-51

v. 43-46

Invitation

v. 47-48

Introduction

v. 49-51

Expectation

III. Peacemaking, Unity & Righteousness

Matthew 5:9; Psalm 131:1; James 4:17

IV. Being a Connector

Personal Reflection

Take time this week to pray & respond to the following:

Bringing people together is a challenging but worthwhile endeavor. When people are given the opportunity to connect, especially those who are demographically different, the understanding and respect gained in the process is good for them and society. Opportunities to engage in dialogue about the big questions of life (origins, meaning, morality, destiny and identity) are created when two or more people try to relationally connect.

Followers of Christ should be intentional about bringing people together. The Lord was intentional in His earthly relationships. He brought people together under the banner of God's mercy, grace and love. Jesus taught and perfectly modeled the mandate from the Father to love one another. He knew that by teaching His followers to be peacemakers who promote unity and righteousness, the gospel would be given a means to advance throughout the world as a result of their testimony.

Do you strive to bring people together? Are you exercising Holy Spirit empowered empathy and love so you can be a catalyst for relationship formation between friends, acquaintances and even strangers? Do you recognize the connection between the mandate of the Great Commission and the work of creating community?

Prayerfully ask God to help you bring people together. Reflect on your present opportunities to do so. Commit to be a catalyst for connecting people in community so that God can use the resulting relationships as an avenue for the gospel to advance.