

Relationship Goals | Part 1 | Pastor Corey Green and Amy Green | 02.23.2020
Replay message at: <http://www.northpointeFL.org/messages>

Memory Verse: Proverbs 27:17(NIV)

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Watch this video from “Free Bible Lessons”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wuo0e5_hTk

“Iron sharpening iron is not a gentle process. It requires great effort and violent attention to detail. It is not a quiet process, and it involves clanging and crashing as metal hones metal. It is not a comfortable process, and the heat required to make the iron malleable is intense.”

Corey Green

How does this relate to us in our marriages and relationships? It takes a lot of work to make a relationship work; whether it's friendships or a relationship with a spouse or intended spouse.

Think about the work you have put into different types of relationships.

- How long did you date your spouse before you were engaged?
- How long were you engaged before you were married?
- How long have you been married?
- If you are not married or engaged--do you have a set amount of time for these stages? Why or why not?
- Is the relationship with your significant other/spouse bringing you closer to God?
- What did you do (or would you do) during these times to sharpen one another?
- How much work do you put into your friendships outside of the church?
 - Are these relationships bringing you closer to God?
- How much work do you put into your small group relationships and relationships within the church?
 - Are these relationships bringing you closer to God?
- Are you sharpening the other person and bringing them closer to God?

Pastor Corey reminds us that this is not an easy or quiet process. It involves clanging, crashing, and facing uncomfortable circumstances. If comfortable, share about a time you felt a relationship was clanging, crashing, or uncomfortable.

- How did you work through it together?
- Did this uncomfortable situation bring you closer together?
 - Did this situation bring you and the relationship closer to God?

In order for a blacksmith to mold the metal and make something beautiful--they must heat it--by fire or torch. This gives the metal the ability to bend and take a new shape. Sometimes, we need to bend and take a new shape together within our relationships.

- What has been a fire moment in your relationship (with a spouse or friend) that brought you to the point where you were willing and able to bend to change for the better?
- How did this bring you closer to God?

A great way to become closer to God while loving your spouse is to pray for them.

- Do you pray for your spouse? If single, do you pray for your future spouse?
- How often do you pray for your spouse?

FamilyLife has two cards to help guide you in praying for your spouse. Click the link in the Go Deeper tab for this week to view it: <https://northpointefl.org/godeeper/>. You can print these and keep them in your bible, on your nightstand or take a photo to have on your phone.

Marriage is difficult, we should support the marriages within the church and pray for strong marriages and strong families. If you are single, widowed or divorced, please pray for the marriages in the church. If you are married, pray for the other married couples in the church while praying for your spouse. If you plan to get married one day, pray these prayers for your future spouse as well as the current marriages within the church. It will be a wonderful testimony to your faithful waiting on God to be able to share with your future spouse one day the prayers that were lifted on their behalf.