



THRIVE 2021 – Living a Life that Builds Relationships

3rd January 2021

Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. Have you ever said something to someone that has triggered an unintended response?
2. Read [Philippians 4:1-3](#)
3. Why should we stay true to the Lord?

Engage:

4. What does it mean to 'stay true'?
5. Who should we stay true to?
6. How is it possible to stay true?

*"As is the nature of all relationships - there will always be moments when we mess up.
But being true to God, brings true correction."*

Pastor Mark Wiltshire

7. Why would Paul use words 'joy' and 'crown'?
- The Philippians' spiritual success would be Paul's "crowning achievement".

Crown [Greek word - *Stephanos*] meaning "a badge of royalty, a prize in the public games or a symbol of honour generally, but more conspicuous and elaborate".

- A crown is a visible statement of **capacity, responsibility and recognition.**
8. What are some different crowns mentioned/demonstrated in the Bible?

Framework:

9. *Crown of Thorns*: [mentioned in Matthew, Mark and John] ensured by Jesus for us.

10. *Crown of Life*: Read [James 1:12](#)

“He wore a crown of thorns, to give us a crown of life!”

Pastor Mark Wiltshire

11. What is, or what do you hope, will be your crowning achievement?

“Do NOT waste time bothering whether you ‘love’ your neighbour; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets.

When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him.”

C. S Lewis [Mere Christianity]

12. What does this quote by C.S Lewis mean?

13. What causes disagreements?

14. Read [Philippians 4:2](#)

15. Read [Philippians 2:2](#)

16. What situations can cause you to be overly stubborn?

17. Read [John 13:34](#)

➤ Commandments are NOT optional!

➤ True love dissolves separation: ‘just as I have loved you’ (Jesus’s words) that’s a high standard – Jesus laid down his life for us!

18. What tensions have you had recently? Trust that LOVE will bring restoration.

19. Read [Luke 6:31](#)

20. Now ask yourself the following questions:

- Would I like this done to me? (Luke 6:31)
- How does my behaviour really help that person? ([Galatians 6:2](#))
- What can I do to make a difference? ([1 Thessalonians 5:11](#))

“It’s better to make a difference, than to make a point.”

Andy Stanley

“God’s definition of what matters is pretty straightforward. He measures our lives by how we love.”

Francis Chan, [Crazy Love]

21. Why does true partnership matter?

22. Who was Paul’s true partner (yoke-fellow, companion)? (Phil 4:3)

➤ When facing conflict that you can’t resolve, don’t let tensions explode:

- Don’t withdraw
- Don’t walk out (pointing blame at the other person)

- Don't resort to cruel power plays
23. What is a true partner?
 24. How can you strengthen your ownership of our BCC core values?
 25. What impact will this have in the church and outside our church?
 26. Will you **throw stones** or **sow grace**? [There is a great example of this in [John 8:7-11](#)
– *The woman caught in adultery*]

“If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman.”

Deuteronomy 22:22

- **Principle of Grace** – forgiveness leading to repentance
 - *Stones will kill, but grace gives an opportunity for a restored LIFE!*
27. Stones are anything that damages someone else. For example: accusation, blame, criticism.
 28. Are you a stone thrower or grace giver?
 29. Do you know someone who could be restored through a personal act of relational grace?