

# Relationships Matter

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

Living in Community – Making Promises



Part of the 'Growing Together'  
Discipleship Stream



# Questions to ponder

- What type of promise maker am I?
- Where is my bar for keeping a promise? (am I prepared to miss out on something 'better' to keep to what I said I would)
- Is there any change I need to make?

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Ephesians 2:14-18 - For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself ***one new man*** from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

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John 13:34-35 - So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

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# Christine D. Pohl – Living in Community

Four areas that enrich, grow and strengthen community

- Gratitude
- Promising-keeping
- Truthfulness
- Hospitality



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# The God of Promise

Genesis 3:14-15- So the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”



**R e l a t i o n s h i p s   M a t t e r**

G O D ' S   D E S I R E   F O R   A   C O M M U N I T Y   O F   B E L I E V E R S

# The God of Promise

**Exodus 6:6-7** - Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians

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# The God of Promise

**Genesis 18:10** And He said, “I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.”

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# God Keeps His Promises

2 Peter 3:8-9 - But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.



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# God's promise keeping, keeps us going

**Ecclesiastes 3:17** "God shall judge the righteous and the wicked, For there is a time there for every purpose and for every work."

**Hebrews 10:30** - For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "

**John 14:18** - I will not leave you as orphans

**Matthew 28:20** - Lo I will be with you to the end of the age

**Revelation 22:12** - Behold I am coming quickly

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# Promise-Keeping

Of yester-year

Of Today

Outrageous claims

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# A promise with sacrifice

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# Promise-Keeping

If it sounds too good to be true.....

... it probably is

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# What's the problem

- Keeping our options open
- Something ~~better~~ important has come up

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*When we makes decisions based on which action produces the more 'good' it is hard to see why we wouldn't break a promise if, by doing so, we could accomplish something better.*

*However, if a person in breaking a promise, simply says they thought that overall it was best, we would incline to question whether or not that person understood what a promise was.*

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# Of course there are good reasons

- My son has been in a car accident and we are on the way to AE we can't come.
- We are stuck in a traffic jam and not moving. We won't be there for 5:00pm
- The England football match went into extra time and then penalties so I could no longer come.



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# What do we want to be known for?

- As a follower of Jesus – someone who looks like him.
- Loyalty, integrity, trustworthy

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# Getting it right

- When as a community of believers we seek to grow in our promise keeping it build:
- Trust
- Loyalty
- Commitment
- Security
- Confidence

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