

# Values Matter Discovery Starters

## We Value People

### 13. BE RELATIONSHIP-ORIENTED

YWAM is dedicated to being relationship-oriented in our living and working together.

We desire to be united through lives of holiness, mutual support, transparency, humility, and open communication, rather than a dependence on structures or rules.

[Lev 19:18](#); [Psa 133:1-3](#); [Pro 17:17](#); [Pro 27:10](#); [Joh 13:34-35](#);  
[Joh 15:13-17](#); [Joh 17:20-23](#); [Rom 13:8-10](#); [1Jo 1:7](#); [1Jo 4:7-12](#)

### Value 13 – Be Relationship-oriented: When God Commands a Blessing

#### Biblical Foundation:

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
For brothers to dwell together in unity!  
It is like the precious oil upon the head,  
Coming down upon the beard,  
Even Aaron's beard,  
Coming down upon the edge of his robes.  
It is like the dew of Hermon  
Coming down upon the mountains of Zion;  
For there the LORD commanded the blessing—life forever (Psa 133:1-3 NASB).*

#### Discovery Starter:

God created us to live in loving relationships with one another. We were not designed to live autonomously, as isolated, solitary islands. We have been designed to live in a rich relational context. Six times during creation God looked at what he had made and saw that it was "good" (Gen 1:4,10,12,18,21,25). The only exception during the creation process was right after God had made Adam but before he had created anyone else. God pronounced, "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Gen 2:18). So God created Eve; someone with whom Adam could have a rich and fruitful relationship.

A proverb often shared on the internet states, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Sometimes this folk wisdom is attributed to the peoples of Africa; sometimes to those of the Pacific. So, whether its origin lies among the Masai or the Maori, it gives us the idea that if we want to get the job done, it's best to do it together. It blends the concepts of task and relationship. This intuitively speaks to our

hearts because it reminds us that we were created by a Triune God. Even as God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – live in a wondrous community of unbroken relational love, so we have been designed to live and work together in loving community. Our relational design is rooted in the character and nature of God.

The kingdom of God is designed to grow through relationship-based partnering which values both the individual and the community. Kingdom partnering makes room for individual uniqueness and initiatives, understanding that relationships grow at the speed of trust. This is possible as we each embrace common Biblical goals and kingdom values. While some cultures celebrate the individual more; others honor the community more. Both perspectives are found in Scriptures. Both are found in our YWAM values. We champion the individual without encouraging autonomous isolation and independence and we celebrate community without ignoring personal accountability and responsibility. When we walk in godly relationships, we meet both individual and communal responsibilities. When this happens, God commands a blessing.

### **Keep Going:**

We are able to collaborate with one another in unity when we are willing to:

- adapt (1Co 9:22-23).
- serve (Mat 25:40).
- share (2Ti 2:2).
- include (Luk 6:38).

Where do you need to do to grow in your own life and character to be able to walk in relational unity with your brothers and sisters? What changes need to occur? What areas need to be strengthened? Take time to wait on God and allow him to examine your heart. Are there certain individuals with whom you need to make things right? Are there certain situations that you need to address? Ask God to show you what he would like to do in your life so that you can be a man or woman of peace. What steps to relational unity can you take in a practical way that will release God to command a blessing over you?

© 2020 David Joel Hamilton: "YWAM Beliefs & Values Discovery Starters." Used by permission.