

“WHO HAS YOUR BACK?”

RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS:

- God’s Kingdom has come to restore relationships.
 - Love God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength (Mk. 12:28-34).
 - Love you neighbor as yourself.
 - These are *the greatest commandments!*
- When Adam and Eve sinned, relationships began a downward spiral.
 - Adam & Eve began blame-shifting.
 - Cain killed Able out of rejection and anger.
 - Relationships have needed restoration ever since.

WHO HAS YOUR BACK?

- “You have stayed with Me in my time of trial” (Lk. 22:28).
- Jesus chose 12 disciples, and shared His life with them?
- Jesus sent out the disciples in pairs (Lk. 10:1).
- Who will be “with you” in your time of trouble?

KINGDOM FRIENDSHIPS:

- Do you have genuine godly friendships in your life?
 - Friends who will motivate you to love and good works (Heb. 10:24).
 - Friends who will be there in trouble and pain (Pr. 17:17).
 - Friends who will speak the truth in love (Pr. 27: 6, 17).
 - ***Who has your back?***
 - This cannot only be your spouse or family.
- Are you laying down your life for others? (Jn. 15:13)
 - “Laying down your life” is not a picture of casual friendships.
 - If you want to remain in God’s love, you must obey the command to love each other by laying down your life for each other (Jn. 15:9-13).

INDEPENDENT SPIRIT:

- Partial obedience; reserves the right to do it my way for my comfort.
- Tends to move around; goes from church to church and group to group; don't let anyone get too close; avoid accountability.
- Personal vision will win out over God's or others vision.
- Is threatened by authority.
- Tends to blame-shift; fails to see their own blind spots and faults.
- Doesn't receive counsel from others.
- Tends to go at it alone; "I don't need others help."

GET CONNECTED:

- God has called us to true friendship ... with Him and with each other.
 - This represents His Kingdom here on earth.
 - This is how our back is covered and we are protected from an independent spirit.
- Reject the independent spirit and get connected to God's people.
 - Build real friendships that will last.
 - Make sure your back is covered and you are covering your friend's back.
 - God values demonstrated friendship (Mt. 24:34-40).