

Connecting Together
Romans 1:8–15 (CSB)

Introduction: In our lesson for today we want to see what Romans 1:8-15 say about connecting with people. How do we connect with one another? How do we make relationships happen? How do we make sure we are connected well? And loving each other well? Something that we want to do. Doing fun things together. Concerts, movies, and beach connecting and interacting together. Something special happens when we interact with one another. But what's been happening in our world today with all the new technologies of communication, cell phone, social media, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and the list goes on and on, but it doesn't replace a relationship. Survey shows that those who spend their time on social media, phones and devices are the most lonely people in the world. We need relationships in our lives and hearts. We need each other, we need to be in church and fellowship with each other. We need to see each other. Now Paul, in our study text is going to show us how we can walk in relationships. **Proverbs 18:24 (KJV)** says "*A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly...*"

Three ways to love people well:

I. Be **Grateful**: for the depths, not just the surface (**Romans 1:8-10 CSB**)

"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you because the news of your faith is being reported in all the world."

A friend is grateful/thankful for the depths of you Faith and the depths of your walk with Christ. What Paul is doing is congratulating and encouraging them. Notice what it says in latter part of this verse "...is being reported in all the world." The whole world is aware of how you are growing in your faith.

III John 4 (CSB) "I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth."

1. How do we put gratitude into practice?

• Make it a **Priority** — "**FIRST, I thank my God**" How do you make generosity and gratefulness a priority? I thank God for my wife, children, siblings, parents, church family, friends

- Make it **Personal** — **“I thank my God for YOU because of YOUR faith”**

I not only want to thank God for you, but also how you are grow in your faith and walk with God.

I Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV) “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

We are encouraged to encourage one another. Just recently at our leadership conference we encouraged all of our department head leaders to continue serve God with excellence and we also thanked God for all of our Sunday School teachers for their dedication and commitment. Be specific

- Make it **Happen** — Paul tells of His gratefulness

II. Be Prayerful: **For** and **With** the people in your life (Romans 1:9–10 CSB)

“God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in telling the good news about his Son—that I constantly mention you,¹⁰ always asking in my prayers that if it is somehow in God’s will, I may now at last succeed in coming to you.”

A good friend pray for people, friends, and family in their lives. I want to pray for that new job, test you are taking today etc.

Acts 13:1–3 (CSB) “As they were worshiping^[a] the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”³ Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off.”

James 5:13–16 (NKJV) “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.¹⁶ ^[a]Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, ^[b]fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

III. Be **Impactful** and impacted: with the **Gospel** (Romans 1:11–15 CSB)

When you walk into our church there are some signs on the wall and website that tell you what our core values and mission.

Reach, Teach, Connect, and Transforms lives.

- Worship Actively
- Grow Spiritually
- Serve Sacrificially
- Reach Out Intentionally
- Pray Passionately
- Love Graciously
- Give Generously
- Stay in The Word of God Faithfully

Providing a place to be authentic, Involved, Impacted and Impactful.

“For I want very much to see you, so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you,¹² that is, to be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.¹³ Now I don’t want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I often planned to come to you (but was prevented until now) in order that I might have a fruitful ministry among you, just as I have had among the rest of the Gentiles.”¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and barbarians, both to the wise and the foolish.¹⁵ So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.”

1. Wherever you are be **Impactful** Romans 1:11-13 (CSB)
2. Whatever you have Romans 1:11–12
3. Whoever you are with Romans 1:14–15

Grateful leads to prayerful, prayerful leads to impactful.