

BUILT 2 BLESS 10

Focused Living Ministry

It looks like an ordinary key but it sold for \$117,000 at auction in 2017 and could have saved the Titanic from disaster. It is the key to the crow's nest (look out) locker that contained the binoculars vital in detecting icebergs and other ships during the pre-sonar and pre-radar days of 1912. The Titanic catastrophe, killing 1,522 lives, could have been avoided if 2nd Officer David Blair had not in haste forgotten to hand off this key to his replacement after his shift as lookout in the crow's nest. Without access to the binoculars the Titanic was essentially 'blind' and could not see the fatal iceberg in their path until it was too late to take action. (Adapted from Graham Tibbetts) Like the Titanic, many 'icebergs' of conflict could be avoided in our families, hundreds of 'spiritual' lives saved each year in our church families, and thousands of unchurched reached in our communities if God's men would get serious about using His keys to healthy relationships and principles of reconciliation.



ICEBERGS AHEAD As a TAG Team read Colossians 3:5-4:6 listing some of many 'icebergs' mentioned which could sink your marriage (3:18-19), capsize your family (3:20-21), drown your business (3:22-4:1) or wreck your community (4:2-6) if not detected and avoided?

"KEY" TITANIC PRINCIPLES TO AVOID ICEBERGS Living out the following biblical principles will help you to steer around life threatening icebergs! Discuss how each of these can impact your relationships.

(5) _____ to the grace of God in Christ (1-4) so that you will not react to the grind of these icebergs. Why is focusing such hard work?

(6-7) _____ how Christ saved you from the wrath of God so that you will learn not return to that way of life again.

(8-13) Take off the filthy, stinking _____ of your old self and put on the fresh, clean clothes of Christ. List your Christlike wardrobe.

(14) Learn to _____ like Jesus. (I John 4:10)

(15) Decide what or who is going to _____ your heart in each relationship. *Two natures beat within my breast; one is foul and one is blessed. One I love and one I hate; the one I feed will dominate!*

(16) Stay under the fountain of God's _____ allowing it to penetrate all areas of your heart.

(23-24) _____ for Christ in all your relationships trusting Him for the results.

SUMMARY

Connect vitally and fully with Christ (3:1-4)

Consider yourself dead to sin but alive to Christ (3:5-8)

Change your clothes daily (3:9-11)

Choose godly beliefs that cause good behavior (3:12-13)

Care for others with compassion (3:14 - 4:6)



GOD IS COMMITTED TO RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS

Jesus' *golden rule* (Mt 7:12) is not as a moralistic proverb but a powerful summary of His relational principles. He has given us 38 "*one another*" principles to help us live with each other in the power of the Holy Spirit. Circle 5 in which you want grow to become more like Christ (Eph 5:1-2) at home, church and work. What do they look like between Sundays?

1. **"Be at peace with each other"** Mark 9:50
2. **"Wash one another's feet"** John 13:14
3. **"Love one another."** John 13:34, 35; 15:12, 17; Rom 13:8; 1Thess 4:9; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:11, 12; 2 John 5
4. **"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love."** Rom 12:10
5. **"Honor one another above yourselves"** Rom 12:10
6. **"Live in harmony with one another..."** Rom 12:16
7. **"Stop passing judgment on one another"** Rom 14:13
8. **"Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you."** Rom 15:17
9. **"Instruct one another."** Rom 15:14; Col 3:16
10. **"When you come to eat, wait for each other"** 1 Cor 12:25
11. **"Greet one another warmly."** Rom 16:16; 1Cor 16:20; 2Cor 13:12;
12. **"Have equal concern for each other"** 1Cor 12:25
13. **"Serve one another in love"** Gal 5:13
14. **"Don't bite, devour...you will be destroyed by each other"** Gal 5:15
15. **"Don't be conceited, provoking and envying each other"** Gal 5:26
16. **"Carry each other's burdens..."** Gal 6:2
17. **"Be...patient, bearing with one another in love"** Eph 4:2
18. **"Be kind and compassionate to one another..."** Eph 4:32
19. **"Forgiving each other..."** Eph 4:32; Col 3:16
20. **"Speak to one another in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs"** Eph 5:19
21. **"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ"** Eph 5:21
22. **"In humility consider others better than yourselves"** Phil 2:3
23. **"Do not lie to each other..."** Col 3:9
24. **"Bear with each other..."** Col 3:13
25. **"Admonish one another"** Col 3:16
26. **"Make your love increase and overflow for each other"** 1Thess 3:12
27. **"Encourage one another daily"** 1 Thess 4:18; 5:11; Heb 3:13; 10:25
28. **"Build each other up..."** 1 Thess 5:11
29. **"Spur one another on toward love and good deeds"** Heb 10:24
30. **"Do not slander one another"** James 4:11
31. **"Don't grumble against each other..."** James 5:9
32. **"Confess your sins to each other..."** James 5:16
33. **"Pray for each other"** James 5:16
34. **"Love one another deeply, from the heart"** 1Peter 1:22; 4:8
35. **"Live in harmony with one another..."** 1 Peter 3:8
36. **"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling"** 1 Peter 4:9
37. **"Use your gifts to to serve one another"** 1 Pt 5:5
38. **"Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another"** 1 Peter 5:5

WHY BE GRACIOUS AND FORGIVING?

- ✓ Because **God has shown** you grace and forgiveness.
- ✓ Because **God commands** you to be gracious and forgiving.
- ✓ Because **you're going to need** grace and forgiveness in the future.
- ✓ Because giving grace and showing forgiveness **brings joy**.

ASSIGNMENT Read through and discuss the **Peace Principles** (RW 360) pamphlet with your wife, family or friend. Come to the next Men's Forum prepared to share what principle or insight you most need to apply or has helped you to avoid relational icebergs.



TAG TEAM DISCUSSION

What key principle do you intend to apply in a valued relationship this week? Pray together for wisdom, courage, grace, love, understanding and endurance.