

crossroads

LIFE GROUPS

April 24, 2022

**Winning in Relationships**  
**Craig Olson**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all people.  
Romans 12:18

Kicking It Off – Who is your best friend? How did you meet? What is it about them that makes you want to be their friend? NOW—What is it about YOU that makes them want to be **your** friend? Who do you think is getting the better end of the deal?

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–5. Focus in on the last few words of verse 5. What are ways in which you keep scorecards on people in your life? Do you keep a running list of kindnesses to reward those who come out on top (and shun those who do not?) Have you been guilty of withholding love and approval from those who do not deserve it? Now read Psalm 130:3. Aren't you glad God tore up your scorecard? How can you flip the script and keep a mental list of ways in which you can bless others—whether they deserve it or not?
2. Read 1 John 4:15–19. We are often reluctant to make the first move in a conflict, especially when we think the other person is at fault. What do these verses say about God's love in us? Why does John say that we should look to be the first one to try to reconcile (Hint: verse 19.)
3. Read 1 Corinthians 2:9. Sometimes we don't move "up the mountain" in our relationships with God and others because we want to know what is at the top before we will commit to do the hard work. What does God promise us in this verse? This sometimes means that we might be disappointed in the short term because God has something better planned for us than what we expect or are asking for. Have you ever been glad in hindsight that God did NOT give you what you were praying for? Thank God for having your best interest at heart.

Putting It into Action – Read Jeremiah 29:13. Remember at the beginning of Craig's sermon he reminded us that the moment we meet someone does not define the relationship but rather how the relationship grows over time based on the work the parties are willing to put into the relationship. How has your relationship grown with Christ since you made him your Lord? How has it grown this last year? Last month? What intentional steps are you taking to grow your relationship by seeking him with all your heart?