

***Right Relationships***  
***Genesis 13:5-11; 14-18***

In Genesis 13, the Old Testament character Abraham demonstrates the \_\_\_\_\_ New Testament practice of any and every follower of Christ. Abraham is faced with a most basic, classic human dilemma: What do I do when my desires \_\_\_\_\_ with the interests of another.

Abraham and Lot were \_\_\_\_\_, adults, traveling companions, and each the head of a large ranching business. They were sharing the \_\_\_\_\_ fields which created conflict with their herdsmen. Conflict between those normally not in conflict is often \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ by those in each one's circle of influence. There are lots of people around who are happy to cause you to have \_\_\_\_\_ relationships. This is never \_\_\_\_\_ way for us.

Abraham found a way to make \_\_\_\_\_ for Lot's family and interests. He chose to \_\_\_\_\_ and let Lot decide the division of the land. This expression, "to deny self," is the first, essential capacity necessary to be a \_\_\_\_\_ (Mat. 16:24). Jesus knew we cannot fulfill God's greatest desires for us if we can't or won't deny ourselves in our relationships with one another.

The Bible often stresses that uppermost in God's concerns for us is that we do not \_\_\_\_\_ with one another but rather make a space for each other in \_\_\_\_\_, our \_\_\_\_\_. Some examples include **Mat. 22:37-40**, **Mat. 7:12**, **John 13:35**, and **John 17:21**. **Phil. 2:2-4** reminds us that nothing destroys \_\_\_\_\_ quite like holding on to a negative relationship with someone. **1 Cor. 13:1-3** warns that nothing destroys our \_\_\_\_\_ like refusing to deny ourselves in an effort to demonstrate \_\_\_\_\_ for one another.

Here is a dilemma that you will face many times in your spiritual journey. Would I rather be \_\_\_\_\_ or be in \_\_\_\_\_?

The Scripture is clear what \_\_\_\_\_ would choose for you. What will \_\_\_\_\_ choose?