

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?