

# How to Stay Afloat

## In a World That's Circling the Drain

### *New Relational Strategies For a Changing World*

Session Five - 2/21/08

#### **Introduction**

Many people these days are finding themselves richer in assets and poorer in relationships; does this sound at all like you? If the ensuing years are going to be successful, you will need to experience an increase in meaningful interaction with other people. If you were to experience a slippage in your professional and financial positions today, would you have the strength in your relational portfolio to tide you over until recovery sets in?

#### **NEW RELATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR A CHANGING WORLD**

##### ❖ **We Were All in the Same Class**

1. Textbook: Everything I Needed to Know About Life I learned from . . . Simon and Garfunkel.”
2. Fight Song: “I am a Rock”

##### ❖ **Our Lives in the 80's Bespoke our Training**

1. People built stronger networks, while relationships continued to weaken.
2. Houses got closer together, while neighbors grew further apart.
3. The Dow hit an all-time high, while friendship hit an all-time low.

4. Mergers were on the rise, while marriages were on the decline.

##### ❖ **It's Time to be Retrained for the 90's**

1. Be a giver
  - The example of Paul – 1 Thess 2:66-69
  - The example of Timothy – Phil 2:19-24
  - The example of Epaphroditus – Phil 2:25-27
2. Be a neighbor
  - The principle – Luke 10:25-28
  - The problem – Luke 10:30-33
  - The practice – Luke 10:34-37
3. Be a friend
  - The practical benefits – Eccl. 4:9-12
  - The emotional benefits – Prov. 17:17
  - The personal benefits – Prov. 27:17,6
4. Be a lover
  - It is an honorable position – Heb. 13:4a
  - It meets a practical need – 1 Cor 7:1-3
  - It solves a prevalent problem – Gen. 2:18-24