Towards A Biblical “Relational” Youth Ministry:
Fellowship in the Church and Home

1. **Rumblings**: Our young people are extremely relational. How can we channel this focus in a Biblical direction?

2. **Gripped by the Word**: How deep do our relationships need to be in order to obey God’s Biblical commands?

   Hebrews 3:12-14—Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. 13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

   ➢ Context: (Author, Audience, Situation, Immediate Context)

   ➢ Command #1

   ➢ Command #2

   ➢ What is at stake?

3. **Enriched by Fellowship in Real Life**: What might God have in store for you?

4. **Warnings for Strategists Like Me**: What is God’s ultimate goal in our fellowship?
5. **A Vision for Fellowship**: If God captured our hearts with a passion for Biblical fellowship, what would it look like?

- **Pursuing Biblical Fellowship**: It is our desire to help young people and their parents understand, experience, and crave Biblical fellowship.

  *Hebrews 3:12-14*—Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

a) **Understand**: Truths about fellowship that God has highlighted
b) **Experience: Ways that God is helping us practice fellowship**
   - **Overflow** (Psalm 66:16):
   
   - **Fellowship Rotation**:
   
   - **Awaken**:
   
   - **Other exciting happenings**:

c) **Crave: New frontiers where God is stirring up a hunger for greater fellowship**
6. **Words of Wisdom On Radical Programmatic Shifts** (From Wright, Steve. reThink)
Bibliography


Beevers, E. Bradley. “Watch Your Language” in The Journal of Biblical Counseling, Volume XII, No. 3, Spring 1994. (This is a helpful article on calling sin by its Biblical names thus enabling us to fight it together.)


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Mahaney, C.J., editor. Why Small Groups? (Gaithersburg, Maryland: Sovereign Grace Ministries, 1996). (Chapters 2 and 5 are especially helpful on the topic of fellowship.)

Maresco, Kenneth and John Loftness. Equipped: for Small Group Leadership Training Manual. (Gaithersburg, Maryland: Covenant Life Church, 2005). http://www.covlife.org/ministries/equipped (This is a goldmine of free resources, allowing the free download of a leaders guide, a participant guide and 7 audio teaching sessions with the final three all focusing on fleshing out fellowship in small groups.)


Piper, John. Future Grace. (Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah Books, 2005). (As we grow in our understanding and ability to fight sin by hearing with faith we can much more easily live out the calls of Hebrews 3:12-14.)


Sande, Ken. The Peacemaker. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2004). (This is one of the best resources on guarding the unity of our fellowship.)


Wright, Steve. reThink. (Wake Forest, North Carolina: InQuest Publishing, 2007). (This book on youth ministry vision includes helpful tips on steps to take when making bigger programmatic and or vision adjustments. See chapter 4 & 7, especially pages 126-133 & 212.)