**Relational Intelligence 2.0: Developing Meaningful Relationships**

**Likability and Favour: Part 2**

May 1, 2022

Rev. Dr. Tony Soldano

# **SERMON DESCRIPTION**

Healthy relationships require, not only the favour of God, but also the likability quotient.

# **SERMON QUESTIONS**

1. What do they need to know?

* In order to experience healthy relationships, we require both favour of God and a high level of likability from others.

1. Why do they need to know it?

* Likability and favour will cause you to flourish within relationships, networking, and interpersonal skills.

1. How should we apply it?

* Favour is something that God grants us; likability is something that we produce.

*Relational Intelligence is all fun and games until someone loose a friend.*

# **INTRODUCTION**

**Illustration**

Consider the trucks of a train and how they run parallel down the line. This is a good picture of likability and favour. Favour represents a grace, blessing, and preferential treatment from God while likability is something that we must develop through practical skills.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Favour**

A concrete reaction of the superior to an inferior. When used of God, it may represent that which is shown in His blessings: "And for the precious things of the earth and fullness thereof, and for the good will of Him. that dwelt in the bush" (Deut. 33:16). (Vines)

This word represents the position one enjoys before a superior who is favorably disposed toward him.

Webster’s Dictionary:

* A kind act
* Friendly regard, goodwill
* Preferential treatment, partiality
* A gift bestowed as a token or regard of love.

**Favour:** (Noun) charis ^5485^

* denotes (a) objectively, "grace in a person, graciousness,"
* (b) subjectively, (1) "grace on the part of a giver, favor, kindness,"
* (2) "a sense of favor received, thanks. (for KJV, "pleasure");

(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

* “The Lord’s Blessing”

*“The irresistible charisma of Christ that wraps itself around a person who has yielded themselves to the fulfillment of a heavenly objective” ~Lance Wallnau*

*“The attraction of God to you that releases an influence through you that creates a supernatural inclination in others to like you, trust you, cooperate with you and do things for you that they would not normally do.” - unknown*

# **CENTRAL TRUTH**

Many characters in the Bible, including Jesus Christ, required the favour of God and likability in order to accomplish their assignments.

**Examples Of Bible Characters Who Received Favour on Their Lives**

* **Jesus** Christ [Luke 2:52]
* **Joseph** (Jacob’s son) before Pharaoh
* Joseph went from the tents of Jacob (modern day – the church) all the way to the Government of Egypt – God’s favour played a key role in this promotion
* Even Pharaoh desired Jacob’s blessing (favour)
* **Daniel** and the three Hebrew children experienced incredible favour as they interacted with pagan rulers and a corrupt system
* **Esther** – *“She obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head*” [Esther 2:17]
* **Nehemiah** prayed and God gave him favour in order to rebuild the wall [Nehemiah 2:5]
* **Abraham** - "*My Lord, if I have now found favour in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant”* [Genesis 18:3]
* **Gideon** asked God for a sign of His favour [Judges 6:17]
* **Mary** the mother of Jesus [Luke 1:30].

**MAIN PASSAGE**

**Luke 2:48-52**

48 His parents didn’t know what to think. “Son,” his mother said to him, “why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere.” 49 “But why did you need to search?” he asked. “Didn’t you know that I must be in my Father’s house?” 50 But they didn’t understand what he meant. 51 Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart. 52 Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

* Jesus GREW in favour
* With God and with people
* He was anointed with the oil of gladness

**Hebrews 1:8**

8 But to the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. 9 You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.”

**1Chronicles 4:10**

And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested. (NKJV)

Within this passage we see critical words that identify the favour of God including blessing, enlargement, and that your hand would be with me.

# **MAIN POINTS**

*“Ever wonder why some people are likable and others aren’t? Without a high likability quotient, it’s tough to succeed in almost any area of life—especially as a leader or entrepreneur. If you want to win with people, they not only have to know you; they also have to trust you.* ***Likability is the bridge between the two****. It’s a prerequisite to trust. Why? I’m not going to*[*trust*](https://michaelhyatt.com/how-to-build-trust.html)*someone I don’t like. ~Michael Hyatt*



Here are seven easy ways to improve your likability quotient and increase your trust with the people you meet and work with:

1. **Be kind/pleasant**
2. **Luke 6:35**

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

1. **Smile more:** Smiling is ground zero for likability. It puts people at ease and draws them in. It is also contagious, so it lifts everyone’s mood. Of course, the reverse is also true.
2. Facial expressions communicate many things to people but nothing more than a warm smile that invites them into your world even if for a brief moment.
3. It has been stated many times that it takes one muscle to smile but many to frown. Focus on your facial expressions when dealing with people and interacting with them.
4. **Remember people’s names**
   1. People derive their main identity from their name; therefore, they receive value, worth and intentionality when people remember their name particularly those who are in positions of leadership and of importance
5. This [isn’t easy](http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2015/05/one-reason-why-youre-terrible-with-names.html) for most of us. And that’s all the more reason to try to improve. It sets you apart and gives you an edge. Why? People love being remembered and acknowledged by name.
6. QUOTE: As Dale Carnegie said, ***“A person’s name is to him or her the sweetest and most important sound in any language.”***
7. **Look in people’s eyes**
   1. Looking into people’s eyes [communicates interest and worth](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/sideways-view/201412/the-secrets-eye-contact-revealed)
   2. Jesus took time with everyone that was in front of Him, He made everybody feel important and special because He took time with them. He did not look around them nor beyond them nor focus on the next assignment but was “all there” when people were in His presence
   3. Your body language will always communicate more to people than your words, your words may come across pleasant; however, if you look past people your body language will communicate to them that they do not matter

* 1. Luke 8:48 And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."
* In this incredible verse, Jesus takes time to understand who touched Him and to communicate with the woman who ultimately drew virtue from Him. He continues to address her in a relational term, calling her “daughter”.

1. **Display genuine interest in others** 
   1. **Ask questions.** People [love talking about themselves](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-neuroscience-of-everybody-favorite-topic-themselves/). That’s important to know for two reasons. First, it’s easy for leaders to monopolize conversations and alienate people. Watch for that!
   2. Second, if you want to help people feel happy and engaged, giving them the freedom to talk about their own interests and projects is one of the easiest ways to do it. That starts by asking great questions
   3. The book of Philemon is a phenomenal book on relational intelligence
   4. People that struggle in emotional intelligence and relational intelligence over emphasize their spirituality.
2. **Listen carefully**
   1. It is not enough to ask questions; you need to really listen. We crave empathy and tend to like those who offer it to us.

* The good news is that even if you do not consider yourself a good listener, anybody can develop this skill.
* Try [these five practices](https://www.fastcompany.com/3036026/how-to-be-a-success-at-everything/5-ways-to-improve-your-listening-skills):
  + - 1. Be fully present
      2. See it from their perspective
      3. Clarify and echo key points
      4. Focus on them, not your response
      5. Develop genuine curiosity.
  1. Listening is a skill that must be developed, it is not something that comes naturally but rather it is a skill that needs to be grown. Listening is an essential part of emotional and relational intelligence and must be acquired in high doses to interact with people effectively.

1. **Be grateful**
   1. Go out of your way to appreciate people – display gratitude with:

* Words
* Actions
* Gifts
* Affection
* Thoughtfulness
* Affirmation
* Praise and recognition.
  1. If you want to make people feel as if their contribution really matters, take note and show gratitude. When a teammate does something positive or helpful, recognize it. When people feel valued by others, they usually respond in kind.
  2. **Philippians 1:3** Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.
* Paul demonstrates that we are to be thankful for people even in our prayers, mentioning them before God and blessing them for what they mean to us. In other words, people are a gift of God to us.

1. **Celebrate milestones – be there for others** 
   1. It is absolutely essential to celebrate milestones and achievements. Recognizing what people have accomplished is a phenomenal motivator and releases endorphins and creativity within people.
   2. Of all the things that can boost emotions, motivation, and perceptions during a workday, the single most important is making progress in meaningful work.
   3. Praise and recognition are absolutely essential, and it costs nothing
   4. Leaders, they say, “have more influence than you may realize over employees’ well-being, motivation, and creative output.” When we celebrate our progress, we not only validate our work, but we also improve the mood. My old college boss did not get that memo.

In all seven ways we see the essence of value and worth and it causes our likability quotient to increase with others. When people like us, they will trust us and give us the ability to get to know them better.

As Gods people, as followers of Christ, we are in the people business! THEREFORE, if you want to be likable, **demonstrate that you like people.**

Things that repel people and push them away:

* Nasty disposition
* Liars and exaggerators
* Abrasiveness and combative people, difficult/people that are hard to get along with
* Selfishness, self centred, self absorbed
* Proud and arrogant
* Drama – people that create unnecessary trouble
* Gossips
* Annoying
* No filters, couth, or public ability to socialize with others
* Humour is good but sometimes people use this to be harmful
* Smart people can be jerks.

**ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES**

**Genesis 39:2-4**

2 The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. 4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. NKJV

**Genesis 39:20-22**

20 But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. NKJV

**Isaiah 58:14**

Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD;

And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth,

And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. (NKJV)

**Proverbs 22:1**

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,

Loving favor rather than silver and gold. (NKJV)

**Ruth 2:13**

Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants. (NKJV)

**Daniel 1:9**

Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. (NKJV)

**Proverbs 8:35**

35 For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the LORD; …(NKJV)

**Psalms 30:7**

LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain stand strong; You hid Your face, and I was troubled. (NKJV)

# **QUOTES**

* *Favour does not necessarily mean that everyone will like you at all times.*
* *Some people carry a big sign around their neck, that screams – back off!*
* *Favor does not mean that everything goes your way.*
* *Favor applies to all areas of our lives.*
* *One day of favor is worth a thousand days of labor. ~unknown*
* *Favor determines your promotions and wealth.*
* *God’s favor brings you goodwill from God, but this also has blessing with man.*
* *You grow and increase in favor through trust and faith in God.*
* *The favor of God does not override the will of God.*
* *Relational intelligence is all fun and games until someone loses a friend.*
* *You're not cursed by God you're favored by Him.*
* *People who lack relational intelligence will overemphasize their spirituality.*
* *Jesus was anointed with the oil of gladness. This means He was likable.*
* *Being favored doesn't mean you're likable.*
* *God's responsibility is your favor. Your responsibility is your likability.*
* *If you want something from God, rejoice when others get it.*
* *You don't know the true state of a relationship until it's tested.*
* *It was the favor of God that caused Joseph to prosper but it was his responsibility to have relational intelligence.*
* *Don't use your spirituality to cover up weaknesses in other areas of your life.*
* *Don't believe people who always compliment you and don't believe people who always criticize you. Find the middle ground.*
* *Sometimes favor from God causes difficult circumstances.*
* *Don't spend time in the prayer closet and come out like the devil.*
* *We don't just need to be spiritual we need to be likable.*

# **QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**

1. Describe how God has poured out favour in your life.
2. How can we grow in favour according to the Bible?
3. Describe other ways where we can grow in our likability quotient.
4. Why was Jesus attracted to certain people like John, Lazarus, Mary, and Martha? What made them likable in His eyes?
5. Why did Jesus call the woman with the issue of blood “daughter”? What does this tell you about Jesus and His interaction with her? What does it tell you about her and what she required from Him beyond just healing?
6. Name five ways that we can earn trust from others. Provide Biblical examples.
7. Read, study, and discuss the life of Daniel. Why did God favour him? Why did unbelieving Kings favour him?