SERMON NOTES
"Relational Margin"

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John 15:4-5

MARGIN is the amount of whatever is available beyond what is needed.

- If we live without margin, life doesn't work as well
- When margin goes down, stress increases

AREAS WEHRE WE NEED MARGIN:

- Time
- Money
- Morality / Sexuality
- Relationships

RELATIONAL MARGIN is a reservoir of trust, caring, and good will that has been built up in the relationship. It is important because frequently what helps us deal with the difficult times is what happened in the good times.

How do we build up margin?
How do we build this reservoir?

- The true beginning is what we do in regard to ourselves. (John 15:4-5)

"You must go on growing in me and I will grow in you. For just as the branch cannot bear any fruit unless it shares in the life of the vine, so you can produce nothing unless you go on growing in me. I am the vine itself, you are the branches. It is the man who shares my life and whose life and whose life I share who proves fruitful."

QUALITIES THAT IMPROVE RELATIONAL MARGIN:

1. Operate with integrity.
2. Be willing to do what is best for the other person.
3. Be timely.
4. Accept the inevitability of conflict and learn how to deal with it.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

- The relationship we take into the darkness is often a continuation of the one we have with Him in the light. (1st Samuel 17:32-37)