

**OUTLINE 08/16/26**  
**Chasing Relationships**  
Ecclesiastes 4-5 (NLT)

In chapter 4, Solomon talks about different kinds of relationships in different circumstances. We can learn from the good and bad examples we find in Solomon's discussion of relationships.

**1. Avoid unhealthy habits in relationships.**

*<sup>4</sup> Then I observed that most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors. But this, too, is meaningless—**like chasing the wind**. <sup>5</sup> "Fools fold their idle hands, leading them to ruin." <sup>6</sup> And yet, "Better to have one handful with quietness than two handfuls with hard work and **chasing the wind**." Ecclesiastes 4:4-6*

**2. Know the advantages of healthy relationships.**

*<sup>9</sup> Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. <sup>10</sup> If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. <sup>11</sup> Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? <sup>12</sup> A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*

**3. Be careful in our relationship with God.**

*<sup>1</sup> As you enter the house of God, keep your ears open and your mouth shut. It is evil to make mindless offerings to God. <sup>2</sup> Don't make rash promises, and don't be hasty in bringing matters before God. After all, God is in heaven, and you are here on earth. So let your words be few. <sup>6</sup> Don't let your mouth make you sin...<sup>7</sup> Talk is cheap, like daydreams and other useless activities. Fear God instead. Ecclesiastes 5:1-2, 6-7*

**JOIN US NEXT WEEK FOR:**  
**CHASING POSSESSIONS**

**How to Receive Christ:**

"Dear Jesus, thank You for loving me even though I'm a sinner. I ask for your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sin and that You rose from the dead. I trust You as my Savior and follow You as Lord, from this day forward. Amen."

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What are unhealthy habits in relationships?
2. What are the benefits of relationships?
3. How can we approach God with care?