Differentiation #1: How Can We Be Connected But not Stuck?

Joshua 24:14-18

Introduction:

1. “The Bridge,” (*Friedman’s Fables*, by Edwin H. Friedman, Guilford Press, pp. 9-13).
2. Example of “stuck”:
3. Joshua called all Israel together.
   1. He was about to die.
   2. He wanted them to serve the Lord God.
      1. Not him.
      2. Not the ungodly people of the land.
      3. Not each other. Joshua 24:14,15
4. How can I be the person who serves God and who is not controlled by others or have a need to control others?
5. I WANT TO BE AWARE OF MY HISTORY AND HONOR IT, BUT NOT BE CONTROLLED BY MY PAST
   1. Joshua and Israel’s ancestry had people with positive and negative traits. Joshua 24:2
      1. They were faithful.
      2. They were idolaters.
      3. They served the Lord.
      4. They lied.
   2. We are stuck when we see our ancestors as more than or less than human.
      1. Angels.
      2. Demons.
   3. Our ancestry will have people with positive and negative traits.
   4. I am free when I can follow Paul’s advice. 1 Corinthians 11:1
6. I WANT TO USE AND ENJOY MATERIAL POSSESSIONS, BUT NOT WORSHIP THEM.
   1. Israel would enjoy possessions they did not create. Joshua 24:13
   2. We have what stuff we have by God’s grace. Deuteronomy 8:10-18
7. I WANT TO BE AWARE OF OTHERS, RESPECT THEM, RECOGNIZE THEM, BUT NOT BE PRESSURED BY THEM.
   1. Joshua was neither controlled by others nor had to control others. Joshua 24:14,15
   2. This was the issue of greatness that the apostles had difficulty in understanding. Matthew 20:25-28

Conclusion:

1. Wobbling is necessary to find this balance.
2. I can be stuck to another – controlling or being controlled.
3. I can be disconnected to another – not have anything to do with him/her, have no contact.
4. The key is to be connected, but not stuck.
   1. I can be me.
   2. I can allow, and encourage, them to be them.
   3. We both retain our God-given right to make our own decisions.