

DROPPING YOUR GUARD: THE VALUE OF OPEN RELATIONSHIPS

OPERATION ASSIMILATION

JOSHUA 1:1-18



The Heart of the Matter

A vast difference exists between watching something happen and being involved in what happens. For many, church becomes a “spectator sport”—a few exhausted, burned-out believers knock themselves out to run the ministries and activities, while the majority sit back and observe from a distance. This is a far cry from the way the body of Christ was designed to function! In this message, we’ll focus on the problems of “spectatorism” and how we as members of the church body can overcome congregational apathy. The ancient Hebrews were *forced* to work together and get involved in taking the land of Canaan. In their example, we find some practical direction for our own lives.



Discovering the Way

1. Crucial Issues We Must Face

Members of the church today must become active participants in the function of the body of Christ. We must work with and care for other members of the body in love.

2. How the Hebrews Handled It (Joshua 1:1-18)

God’s people determined the direction of their future. They accepted the challenge of occupying their land without fear of failure. They forgot their differences and closed ranks in unity. They abandoned themselves to the plan and fixed their eyes on the Lord.



Starting Your Journey

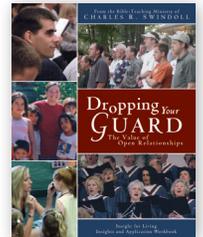
For us to go on, we must pull together and go deeper. For me to be involved, I must reach out and risk relationships. This means that we must all be willing to adapt and adjust our lives accordingly.



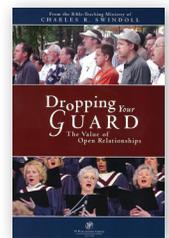
Tools for Digging Deeper



**Dropping Your Guard:
The Value of Open
Relationships**
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



**Dropping Your Guard:
The Value of Open
Relationships Workbook**
by Charles R. Swindoll
softcover Bible Companion



**Dropping Your Guard:
The Value of Open
Relationships**
by Charles R. Swindoll
softcover book

For related resources, please call
USA 1-800-772-8888
AUSTRALIA 1300 467 444
CANADA 1-800-663-7639
UK 0800 787 9364
or visit www.insight.org
or www.insightworld.org



Original outline copyright © 1981 and Message Mate copyright © 2013 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application