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**Fellowship of Companies for Christ  
 Greater Hartford Chapter  
 August 6, 2014**

- Welcome! Opening prayer and praise reports
- FCCI update
- **Today's topic: Do You Ever Feel Used?**

*Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. --2 Corinthians 8:13-15*

**User** = person who uses a friend/acquaintance solely for the purposes of gaining an advantage.

In every aspect of our lives, from marriage and family to community to church and business, it's possible to (a) FEEL used and/or (b) BE used. We live in a very self-centered, manipulative culture. It's also possible for US to use other people, to be the selfish, manipulative ones!

This passage is an exhortation to build win-win relationships. This passage is also the Scripture I sought to apply when I incubated Keep In Touch at Copytex in the Tolland Business Park from 1988-1990. They allowed me to spend 2-1/2 years there, but I didn't "use" them; I provided marcom support and, when I opened my own offices, I became a loyal customer for years.

Let's examine some of the ways that people can "use" us as business owners: customers ("the customer is always right" is a lie!), employees, suppliers, peers, public, charities, etc.

Should we, and how can we, protect ourselves from being used and from using others?

How should we respond if we discover that we are being used?

Should we seek to define every relationship as win-win?

Shouldn't we be generous and giving?

Where does generous and giving end and being used begin? How do we draw that line?

What role do liberty and freewill have in being generous and giving?

See 1 Corinthians 6:7, 9:18, and 2 Corinthians 12:14-15

Evaluate yourself from 1 (weak) to 10 (strong) in terms of building win-win relationships.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits might you enjoy by building more win-win relationships?										
What specific actions can you take to build more win-win relationships?										

- Next meeting on August 20, "This Is My Story" on September 3
- Other news
- Closing prayer