

Relating to Others

How to Relate to Others:

“Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

- John 13:33-35

1. Follow Jesus’ example.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

- John 13:34

2. Obey Jesus’ commandment.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

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- Right relationships begin with character, not feelings.
- Right relationships blossom with grace, not grit.

3. Wrong relationships can even happen among believers.

“After He had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

- John 13:21

4. It’s alright to feel concerned about bad relationships.

“After He had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

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5. Personally address the relationship problem. (vs. 21b – 26)

“Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, He gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.”

- John 13:26

Why do so many flee instead of face relationship problems?

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| 1. Rejection | 3. Pride |
| 2. Hurt | 4. Risk |

6. Ask for a response. (vs. 27 - 30)

“So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.”

- John 13:27b

7. Understand that God uses even bad relationships for His glory.

“When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in Him.”

- John 13:31

8. Be tender and honest in your communication.

“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.”

- John 13:33

- Tenderness without truthfulness is to be a coward.
- Truthfulness without tenderness is to be calloused.
- Tenderness with truthfulness is Christ-like.

9. Look for love as the mark of a disciple.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

- John 13:35

10. Realistically accept unwelcome facts in a relationship.

“Simon Peter asked Him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” “But why can’t I come now, Lord?” he asked.”

- John 13:36,37

Mature relationships accept the unacceptable.

1. Some relationships will never be great.
2. Some relationships weaken over the years.
3. Some relationships strengthen over the years.

11. Build relationships on action, not words.

“Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” ³⁸Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!”

- John 13:37,38

Closing Thoughts About Relationships:

1. Attitude is more important than action.
2. Adversity is a motivator of great relationships.
3. The greatest relationships are possible because of Jesus’ blood shed on the cross.

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