

Relationships Are Hard **Psalm 133**

Friendship, Marriage, Family, Employment, Society, even Government involves relationships
No matter the type relationships are not easy to maintain over the long term.
They don't just happen but must be nourished and cared for.
Consider some things that are necessary to maintain a good relationship.

Commitment From All Parties

Matthew 5:9; Psalms 120:7; Romans 14:19; Proverbs 16:28

Computer/phone networks - both ends working right for good connection

Unless we are willing to put in the work, we should not expect success.

A wife cannot keep a marriage going if her husband is not trying also.

I don't have a lot of friends from high school in my life now. Mainly because I did not stay in contact

Meaningful Communication

James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13; 15:1,28

First, must speak common language - GM computer will not help Ford - different programming

Second, listen & understand, before we respond - Give considered study to how to answer

Louder does not help comprehension (my kids wish I had learned this a long time ago)

Focus On Truth And Honesty

Proverbs 12:15

Lies bring nothing but confusion; Hiding our feelings can destroy trust

I cannot help when I do not know you are hurting

This must also include honesty with our self and our limitations

We cannot grow if we are not willing to accept our weaknesses as weak or seek to find our strengths

An Attitude Of Sacrifice - Humility

Proverbs 13:10; Philippians 2:3

Unless you are in a relationship with yourself only, you will have to give sometime.

It should never be a matter of "I gave last time, you should give now", but always "What can I do to help us both?"

I am not always right; I am not more important than others; Relationships are not about one but all involved; This one often trips us up in our relations as brethren.

While we do seek to share the work, there will be times that you might have to do a little (or a lot) more than others. This may seem unfair (and maybe it is), but we are called to serve.

Willingness To Change

Proverbs 28:13

I am wrong! (3 hardest words for most of us)

Even if our motives were pure, we must be willing to accept our errors and correct them.

A Willingness To Forgive

Colossians 3:13

No relationship can survive a grudge!

If one is willing to admit wrong and make honest change to correct that wrong, we should support their efforts with forgiveness. Without such there can be no real healing of the connection between us

Relationships are hard!

We must work

How is your relationship with God? This one connection that is now entirely dependent upon me
God gets everything right and is waiting on you to do your part; Can we help?

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