



Zoom Bible Study ~ Improving Your Relationships

Session 3 ~ January 26, 2021

Here are the six relationships principles for improving our relationships that we have already covered:

- #1 ~ Put Others First
- #2 ~ Rejoice and Weep with Others
- #3 ~ Go the Extra Mile
- #4 ~ Love Unconditionally
- #5 ~ Speak Kind Words
- #6 ~ Be a Good Listener

Biblical Principle #7 - Be Dependable

What kind of reputation do you have for dependability?

- I am known to be very dependable by my friends, family, and co-workers.
- I am dependable most of the time.
- I make promises too easily, but then end up often breaking those promises or commitments.

Dependability definitely enhances our relationships. This is a strong biblical principle, and I urge you to become very serious about being a dependable person.

A great motto to remember is: *Under promise; over deliver.*

If you tend to over promise, why do you do that?

Proverbs 13:12: Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

Any time you make a promise or a commitment to someone, you build hope in that person. If you fail to keep that promise without a good reason or explanation, then it does something to that person's heart - to their feelings toward you.

Ecclesiastes 5:5: It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

Biblical Principle #8 - Be Loyal

Consider these scenarios:

1. You have a friend that you've been fairly close to for over ten years. You have shared many personal matters in confidence, and you have come to trust her. Then you discover that she has been relating your personal confidences to other people.
2. You were talking to an aunt who started bad-mouthing your sister about some rather insignificant matter. You knew your aunt was wrong in talking about your sister, but you didn't say anything to her.
3. Your co-worker pretends to be your friend when he's with you, but behind your back he makes fun of you, tells things that are not true about you, and tries to create strife between you and others on the job.

In each situation, what damage will be done to those relationships by the lack of loyalty that is demonstrated?

Proverbs 17:9: He who covers an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

What do you think wise Solomon meant by “covering over an offense”?

The Apostle Paul makes this even clearer in [1 Corinthians 13:6-7](#):

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

A loyal person is not eager to pass along something offensive about a friend or family member. Just the opposite, they seek to protect that relationship, and they hang in there with that person as long as they can without compromising their own beliefs or testimony.

Biblical Principle #9 - Put on Compassion

Colossians 3:12: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

What does it mean to be compassionate toward someone?

Conclusion

We've covered nine biblical principles that definitely will improve your relationships:

1. Put Others First
2. Rejoice and Weep with Others
3. Go the Extra-Mile
4. Love Unconditionally
5. Speak Kind Words
6. Be a Good Listener

7. Be Dependable
8. Be Loyal
9. Put On Compassion

There is one more principle we need to consider next week and then we'll look at some specifically difficult types of people we often encounter. Remember, the secret to improving your relationships is to pray these principles into your life.



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