



How To Build Meaningful Relationships

A Guide To The Good Life - Part 1 of 9

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Big Idea: God has designed us to thrive when we engage in meaningful relationships with others who enrich our lives and help us become more spiritually healthy.

Text: Acts 2-4

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. – Acts 2:44-47

I. WHAT IS MEANT BY “MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS?”

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” – John 13:34-35

A. The quality of some of your relationships is moving from _____ toward _____.

B. The extent of your relationships is expanding from _____ to _____.

C. The focus of your relationships is changing from _____ to _____.

One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? – 1 Corinthians 1:12-13

II. WHY ARE MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS IMPORTANT?

A. Christian friends will _____ when you are doing right.

*And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging **one another**; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near. – Hebrews 10:24-25 {NASV}*

B. Christian friends will _____ when you face trials.

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.
The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. – James 5:16*

C. Christian friends will _____ when you are wrong.

*"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you.
If he listens to you, you have won your brother over." – Matthew 18:15*

*"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently."
– Galatians 6:1a*

**D. Christian friends will _____ from you if you are defiant
in your disobedience.**

*It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not
occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather
have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this? ... hand this
man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of
the Lord." – 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 5*

*If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the
truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and
the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. – 1 John 1:6-7*

E. Christian friends will forgive you and _____ when you repent.

*Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.
Forgive as the Lord forgave you. – Colossians 3:13*

III. HOW ARE MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS DEVELOPED?

*Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.
– Romans 14:19*

- **Sign up for a _____ Bible study meeting in your neighborhood.**
- **Sign up (and show up) for a _____ serving opportunity.**
- **Make your own home a place of _____.**
- **Visit a Bible _____ held at the church and put on a nametag.**
- **Speak up when someone asks for _____ and say, "Pray for me."**

- During greeting time at church _____ that person who sits near you to join you and your spouse for a meal after church.
- Stick around _____.
- Visit with _____ and tell him/her you're praying for them.
- Approach people who attend this church who live in your _____.
- Volunteer to serve in a practical _____ with some other people.
- Write an _____ to someone who has just experienced a victory.
- At the very least, at the end of a service _____ and phone number with the people who have been sitting near you for years.