

Building Relationships

A strong relationship is one where there is trust, good communication, transparency, common vision and fun. A sense of humour highly valuable. Trust takes time to build.

Remember People are Different

Rom. 12:4 *Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function*

People have different personality types: Sanguine, Choleric, Phlegmatic, Melancholic

Little Jonny trips on the carpet with a tray of glasses. How does the prophet, teacher, administrator, pastor and leader respond/react

Some people are methodical thinkers evaluate all the alternatives before speaking. Others tend to jump from one idea to another on a wave of enthusiasm..

Give people space to be who God made them.

We are called to Strong Loyalty

1 Joseph's loyalty to God and his family Gen. 45

2 Jonathan's loyalty to David 1 Sam 19:4

3 Esther's loyalty to the Jews Esth 4:16.

4 Job's loyalty to God Job 2:10.

5 Ruth's loyalty to Naomi

Noah became drunk - one son mocked the other two walked in backwards

How do you react when you see a fault in your brother or sister? If you have a different opinion?

Priority of loyalty: God, Family, Church, Society.

How to build

1 Jn 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,*

1 Jn 2:9 *Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the dark.*

Prov 11:13 *A **gossip** goes around revealing a secret, but the trustworthy keeps a confidence.*

Oxford Dict - **Gossip** “casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details which are not confirmed as true” If there is any doubt don't go there.

Colossians 3:8 *But now you must also put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and **filthy language from your mouth.*** If there is any doubt over a word don't use it.

1 Tim 5:1 *Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with **absolute purity.*** No hints, no insinuations. Don't 'play' in this area – its too dangerous. Scripture is our standard not the worlds.

Don't dominate conversation. We should be talking no more than 60% of the time to build meaningful relationships. Communication involves volunteering information and asking questions. **Asking**

questions demonstrates interest in the other person. Listening is a difficult skill to learn especially when you are thinking about you want to say next.

When building relationships progress from “the weather” to “local issues” to “deep person issues”.

If a person needs correction make sure you are the right person to bring it. Build the bridge first. Send a 10 tonne truth over a 10 tonne bridge and don't forget to take the plank out of your own eye first.

If you have a problem with someone try and sort it out direct one-on-one first. Matt 18. - A command. Approach with gentleness and respect.

Communication is difficult, give people the benefit of the doubt. Don't write people off after one fault - wait and watch.

Ephesians 4:2 *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

Romans 14:13

*Therefore let us **stop passing judgement on one another.** Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.*

Romans 15:7

*Accept **one another**, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

1 Corinthians 1:10

*I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you **agree with one another** in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.*

2 Corinthians 13:11

*Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, **encourage one another**, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.*

Galatians 5:13

*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature ; rather, **serve one another humbly in love.***

Ephesians 4:32

*Be **kind and compassionate to one another**, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

Hebrews 10:24

*And let us consider how we may **spur one another on toward love and good deeds.***

James 5:9

***Don't grumble against one another**, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!*

1 John 4:12

*No one has ever seen God; but **if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.***