

Relationship Principles

Our Commitment to Building Godly Relationships

The Faithfulness Principle

Faithfulness to a relationship means loyalty to a person. When problems are the primary focus of a relationship, principles are laid aside in order to air differences, and the importance of sharing feelings often takes priority over character.

Commitment: Faithfulness to our relationship outweighs the importance of any offense between us. I will not allow any problem to override the principles by which we live.

Question: Are you going to let this problem threaten our relationship?

Psalm 133:1-3

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe...for there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore." ...also 2 Timothy 2:2, 1 Corinthians 13:7

The Final Word Principle

We believe God's word. We should also believe the words of our friends. If we respect the words we hear from each other, we do not need constant assurance of the well-being of our relationship. We can be confident that all is well because we have not been told otherwise.

Commitment: I will believe and act upon the last words we spoke concerning our relationship, and live as if you will do the same. If anything changes on my part, I will inform you.

Question: Did you forget or disregard what we last spoke to one another concerning our relationship?

Scriptures: Ephesians 4:15 - Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him, who is the Head, that is Christ."

Proverbs 14:5 "A truthful witness does not deceive."

1 Corinthians 13:7 "If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him."

The Friendship Principle

God is the only one who knows what is in a man's heart. One should not expect that a friend discerns what is happening inside him. Therefore, the need to be understood is met by friends communicating with one another.

Commitment: I will not expect you to interpret my actions or recognize my heart's condition. It is my responsibility to approach you if I need your help.

Question: Are you offended that I did not recognize you were troubled?

Scriptures:

1 Samuel 16:7 – "People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

...also 1 John 1:7, Proverbs 14:25, James 5:14

The Four Day Principle

Resolving conflicts preserves friendship. Offenses between friends are spiritually, emotionally, and physically harmful. Bringing issues to a closure within a reasonable amount of time maintains the health of a relationship.

Commitment: I will not allow any problem I have with you go unresolved for more than four days. If, within that length of time, I have not come to peace about the issue, I will communicate with you.

Question: How long have you been troubled about this problem?

Scriptures:

Matthew 5:23-24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." ...also James 3:17-18

The First Word Principle

Jesus instructed us to go to an offending brother privately. When we obey Jesus, we are able to reconcile with our brother much more easily than if we had revealed the issue to others before seeking him. This also prevents the potential of others taking up a secondary offensive.

Scriptures: Matthew 18:15 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him first his fault, just between the two of you." ...also James 3:5

Commitment: You will be the first person to know about any problem I have with you.

Question: Have you spoken to anyone else about this offense?