

# Relationships

Titus 3:1-3

Introduction: The Bible has many things to say about relationships with one another. When it comes to dealing with one another, I think we can all agree that we need all the advice we can get. In this lesson, we will look at a number of passages that instruct us in regards to our relationships.

## I. Relationships can be tricky.

A. A relationship calls for **tolerance** with humility, gentleness, and love in order to have unity in peace (Eph. 4:1-3).

B. We can easily upset others by saying the wrong thing (Col. 4:6). Notice the passage says, “how we **ought** to answer each” other. Do we always speak as we ought?

C. When we speak as we ought not, what happens? We invariably have troubles that follow (James 3:5-10).

1. Have you ever tried to persuade someone you offended (Prov. 18:19)? You have a better chance at taking over a fortified city by force than communicating with an offended brother.

2. Unfortunately, many of us are better at provoking one another than we are loving one another (Gal. 5:25-26; Titus 3:1-3).

3. We can even say the right things at the wrong time and make a friend mad at us (Prov. 27:14). It is like a friend calling you at 6 am to congratulate you. Good intentions but very annoying!

D. We can also make ourselves a nuisance and cause our friends to hate us (Prov. 25:17). He may have good intentions and the neighbor may really like the guy but constantly being in his house can be annoying. How many room mates end their relationships because of annoying or inconsiderate behavior?

## II. Our behaviors can be destructive to our relationships.

A. Laziness (Prov. 10:26). Do you find it hard to deal with people who are not responsible individuals? There are a host of things in a relationship that become “vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes.” Why do you think Mom gets irritated when someone else was supposed to take out the trash?

B. Craving attention (Prov. 25:27). Here is a person who has to be the center of attention. He is only interested in how he feels, thinks or performs. He has no care for anyone else unless that person praises him. Is a glory seeker the kind of person you like to be around?

C. Gossip (Prov. 17:9). There is no quicker way to end a relationship than to spread rumors about another. Such behavior will end the relationship between the best of friends.

D. Indiscretions (Prov. 11:22). This certainly also applies to men. What a waste putting a gold ring in a pig's snout as well as having a beautiful lady lacking proper discretion. The indiscretion could be vulgar speech, poor manners, immodest dress or just embarrassing cleanliness. Would you desire to marry a person like that?

### III. We can improve our relationships:

A. By watching our words.

1. Speak softly (Prov. 15:1; 25:15).
2. Avoid arguments (Prov. 17:14; 2 Tim. 2:24).
3. Don't speak hastily (Prov. 29:20).
4. Don't speak evil (Jas. 4:11).
5. Don't complain (Jas. 5:9).

B. Think twice before speaking (Prov. 15:28).

C. Be sensitive to the feelings of others (Phil. 2:1-4; 1 Pet. 3:8-9).

D. Be honest (Eph. 4:25). Don't lie to anyone (Col. 3:9).

E. Forgive one another (Col. 3:13).

F. Comfort and edify one another (1 Thes. 5:11).

G. Serve one another (Gal. 5:13-15; 1 Pet. 4:10).

H. Be submissive to one another (1 Pet. 5:5).

I. Most of all, love one another (1 Pet. 1:22).

Conclusion: One last thing we can do to improve our relationships is to admit when we have sinned (Jas. 5:16). When we admit our sins that we commit against others, we can pray with one another for forgiveness. When we refuse to acknowledge our sins we end up destroying our relationships with others as well as with God.