

THE NEED TO GET ALONG (1)

By Keith Greer

"And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." (Genesis 2:18)

From the very beginning, with the creation of woman to be a helper suitable for man, God has told us that "it is not good that the man should be alone". God designed and instituted marriage to be the most intimate of all human relationships, and He gave us the pattern to follow.

We are, by God's design, social creatures. People need other people, and in the Bible, we can learn not only how the marriage relationship is to be, but we can also see God's ideal in any relationship. Parent and child, master (employer, manager) and servants (employees), those we meet in the world as well as the relationships we have with other Christians all have a "God-given" formula for success.

The Bible is a book about relationships. Primarily, the Bible is about man's relationship to God. If our relationship with God is what it should be, then the relationship that we have with others, whether in our own home or in society with others, will also be what it should be.

Since we are children of God, we need to be in the business of trying to save souls, but if we are "unapproachable, bickering, or unfriendly," how can we accomplish that great task? Can we expect anyone to want to become a member of the Lord's church if they see "God's family" unable to get along with one another? Rather, we should "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." (Colossians 4:5-6)

God has given us the pattern to follow for any relationship, but there are also grave consequences if we are not especially mindful of one another. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another...If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also."(1 John 4:11,19,20)

"A MAN THAT HATH FRIENDS MUST SHOW HIMSELF TO BE FRIENDLY..."
(Proverbs 18:24) We must strive to have a "good relationship" with one another- not only to help ourselves, but to please God!

God, through His word, has provided some very simple guidelines for us to follow.

(1). "... LET EVERY MAN BE SWIFT TO HEAR, SLOW TO SPEAK, SLOW TO WRATH."
(James 1:19) Think before you speak, and weigh your words wisely. Even your tone of voice may determine how your words are received by others. Being a "man (or woman) of few words" is a good thought to remember.

(2). "BUT LET YOUR COMMUNICATION BE YEA, YEA; NAY, NAY: FOR WHATSOEVER IS MORE THAN THESE COMETH OF EVIL." (Matthew 5:37) If you make a promise, do your best to keep it. God's people should always seek to complete what they commit themselves to do!

(3). "...BUT A GOOD WORD MAKETH IT GLAD." (Proverbs 12:25) Never pass up an opportunity to encourage or commend someone of a good deed. Build up rather than tear down. Even when a brother or sister is in error, we are to point out his or her sin in love in order to save a soul. It is sinful for us to discourage and hurt one another.

(4). "...BE OF GOOD CHEER; I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD." (John 16:33) Through Jesus, we have every reason to be happy. When we display our happiness, it will spread to others.
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