



# *Encouragers of Young Women*

## Lesson 14

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### *Godly Relationships*

by Jana Brackbill

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;  
and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you  
and gave Himself up for us, an offering  
and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*

Ephesians 5:1-2

### *God the Author and Finisher of our relationships*

- Types of Relationships
  - Vertical: Psalm 73:25-26
  - Horizontal: Mark 12:30-31
  
- Development of Relationships
  
  
- God's Desire in Relationships

*God's gifts to us to develop godly relationships*

- Himself (Romans 8:34)
- His Word (Psalm 119:24)
- Godly Leaders (Ephesians 4:11)
- Godly Women (Hebrews 10:24)

Our relationships through  
the lens of Romans 11:36

They come **from God** . . .

They should be developed **through** our  
dependence on **Him and His Word** . . .

They are an important part  
of our accountability **to God**.

## *Christ's example in the gospels as a pattern to emulate in godly relationships*

- He taught self-denial and taking up a cross (Matthew 16:24)
- He taught us that love was most important (Matthew 22:35-40)
- He chose His words carefully – sometimes He said nothing at all (Matthew 15:23)
- He welcomed interruptions of life (Luke 5:17-20)
- He used object lessons (Luke 12:27-40)
- He met people where they were and pointed them to God (John 4:4–26)
- He prioritized others' needs before His own (Philippians 2:5-8)
- He had compassion for others (Matthew 9:36)
- He wasn't afraid to confront sin (Matthew 4:17)
- He always took the initiative to minister (Luke 19:1-4)
- He provided for the needs of others (Matthew 14:13-21)

## *Helpful guidelines for Understanding Godly Relationships*

- Extremes in our relationships with others should be seen from the vantage point of obeying God's will in His Word, not from the perspective of our preferences.
- God has ordained each of our relationships, the timing and duration of all of our relationships.
- God has a plan for our relationships.
- Self-examination is vital when it comes to seeing God's love in our relationships.

*Make it easy on others and hard on yourself.  
~Pastor Minnick*

- Relationships take time to develop and can be easily damaged.
- Give God time to work in relationships.

The fatal flaw of human wisdom in relationships is that it promises that you can change your relationships without needing to change. ~Paul David Tripp

## *Kindness*

should be the impetus and governor  
of our interaction with others

Love . . . seeks the highest good for others.

Joy . . . having gladness not based on circumstances.

Peace . . . being manifested in contentment, and unity.

Patience . . . being slow to speak and slow to anger.

Goodness . . . Goodness is the selfless desire to be open-hearted and generous to others, above what they deserve.

Faithfulness . . . steadfast devotion to God, and loyalty to others.

Self-control . . . restraint of one's emotions, actions, and desires, to be in harmony with the will of God.

Gentleness . . . humble, calm, non-threatening.

## *Developing special relationships to God's glory...*

- Honoring parents and parents-in-Law

*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you. Exodus 20:12*

### Relationships with parents . . .

- Heed the fifth commandment (Exodus 20:12)
- Avoid the characteristics of the current times (2 Timothy 3:2)
- Value parental life experience (Proverbs 1:8-9)
- Develop a cause of joy in their lives (Proverbs 15:20)
- Guard the natural tendency of being independent / unheeding (Proverbs 4:23)
- Choose to act in love (I Corinthians 16:14)
- Put on humility (Colossians 3:12)
- Benefit from their prayers (I Thessalonians 5:17)

### Relationships with parents-in-law . . .

- Preserve unity (Ephesians 4:3)
- Respect them (I Peter 2:17)
- Encourage them (I Thessalonians 5:11)
- Resolve conflicts (Romans 12:18)
- Set boundaries (Proverbs 25:17)
- Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- Focus on the positives not negatives (Philippians 4:8)

- Relationships with Pastors and Church Leaders

*1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.*

*Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.*

- Be persuaded and have confidence in godly leaders as they carefully lead you through the journey of faith and obedience.
- Submit to their biblical instruction even though their counsel might make it necessary for them to reprove your misconduct.
- Understand that church leaders are focused on helping to guide you in a way that would further you in your chief end of glorifying God.
- They are always watching over those to whom they minister.
- Never cause them to have a sense of agony within themselves because of your lack of attention and obedience to their biblical counsel.
- Understand that to disregard their scriptural admonishments could result in suffering presently and even eternally.
- Consider their exposure to the Scriptures.
- Pray for them.

- Relationships with members of the Body of Christ
  - Developing “one- another ministry”
  - Serving with others
  - Helping each other discover the idols in our lives
  - Growing together in the faith and perfecting holiness in the fear of God
  - Preserving the unity of the Spirit through harmonious relationships
  - Praying for one another
  
- Relationships with the lost . . .

*Jude 1:23 Save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.*

- Understand the need
- Pray for opportunities
- Seek a sustained relation or friendship with a lost person
- Involve your family
- Realize the benefits