



by Bonnie Detwiler

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

~John 13:34-35

Relationship — *a particular type of connection between people related; kinship*

Foundational Facts about Relationships

1. Teenagers have a dynamic potential.
 - undergoing a period of devastating transition
 - need guidance by older, wiser adults

Proverbs 1:8, *Hear my son your father's instruction, and do not forsake your mother's teaching.*
2. We need to do what He commands.
 - prepare my heart to be "perfect"

I Kings 8:61, *Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day.*
- perform our ministries in the fear of the LORD with wholehearted devotion.

II Chronicles 19:9, *Then he charged them saying, "Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and wholeheartedly."*

"You as a parent have a right to inquire of the Lord concerning your child. You have the right to ask the Lord for direction and wisdom in deciding what to do." Temple

- made mistakes in rearing teens?
Philippians 3:13-14, . . . *one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind, and reaching forward to what lies ahead,*
II Corinthians 4:8-9, *We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;*

But this you must remember, This one thing you must know . . .
 I cannot take your burden Until you let it go! *Anon*

3. Problems can cause trouble.

- Physical features
- Physical stature
- Mental abilities
- Family financial standing in community
- Parental standing in community
- Pressure to be conformed to the world



Don't want outward conformity, but we want true godliness!

Matthew 22:36-38, . . . *the great commandment . . . is "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." . . . The second is like it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

4. Teens are teachable.

Proverbs 4:1 advises, *Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, and give attention that you may gain understanding.*

How do we teach them?

By our words and our example!

What should we teach them?

- They are God's children.
- The King's children are different-- citizens of another world.
- Their parents truly love each other, and we love them!
- As they mature and show more self-discipline, parents can do less disciplining.
- They are worthy and important.
- To be conscious of their own youthful example.

"A family altar will alter many a family." ~ Dr. Hugh Pyle

Basic principles for building any relationship: *Trusting & Understanding*
Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."

Trust—place confidence in; totally rely on

Understanding—gaining and knowing facts; ability to comprehend, using common sense

Our heart is what affects relationships. Solomon speaks to his son in Proverbs 4:4 *Let your heart hold fast my words, :21 Keep them in the midst of your heart, :23 Watch over your heart with all diligence.*

Attitudes (moods) proceed from the heart. Are our youth cheerful, helpful, energetic, positive, agreeable, giving, loving, and respectful? Does there need to be an adjustment?

"What you are at home is what you are." ~ Barber

Relationship with the Lord

Our most fulfilling relationship in life is **with our Lord**.

Our part is to have our confidence in and reliance on God. Jeremiah 33:3 God's part is to direct and make our path straight. Isaiah 58:11

Relationship with Siblings

Love siblings dearly!

I Thessalonians 3:12, *And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you.*

Love is not an emotion; it is an action. Love is the things we do as well as the things we hold back from doing. Love is a decision, an act of the will.

Testimonies of the Mally siblings from the "*Brothers and Sisters*" series.

Sarah Mally - After consideration she knew she had to go to her brother, humble herself and talk the problems through. Don't hide them, disguise them, or try to cover them up. Sarah's tip is to do the hard thing and honor God. **James 4:10** tells us that the Lord exalts those who humble themselves!

Stephen Mally - Strive for more than just an average relationship with siblings. When a disagreement arises, Stephen suggests being best friends with your siblings, working side-by-side in God's kingdom. If you follow in the steps of Jesus, you will reap an eternal reward. Therefore, Stephen's tip is to be meek, know that God is in control, and let the other person win.

Grace Mally - God is the One Who puts families together, and the family is a mighty powerful team! Differences in personalities can cause irritations. By hoping to change our brothers and sisters we are in for disappointments. God is interested in changing us. Grace's tip is that the next time you are irritated, remember this is a test from the Lord; it requires endurance, humility, and patience.

Key - Love one another and humble ourselves!

One Another's:

1. **Respect** "one another."

Respect territory; treat possessions like your own; don't violate privacy. Home is the training ground for their work ethic. Young people take with them the character qualities they learn at home.

Golden rules for living:

If you open it, close it.

If you turn it on, turn it off.

If you unlock it, lock it up.

If you break it, admit it.

If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.

If you borrow it, return it.

If you value it, take care of it.

If you make a mess, clean it up.

If you move it, put it back.

If it belongs to someone else, ask permission to use it.

If you don't know how to operate it, ask someone to teach you.

If it is not your business, don't ask questions. ~ *George*

2. **Listen** to "one another."

Make time to communicate! Teens should purpose to join sisters and brothers in fun activities where they can share experiences. Siblings can become best friends! Teach them to talk with each other; pray together.

3. **Help** "one another."

Ask, "How can I help you?" Once siblings are over the shock, they might find that they really like each other. Life is too short for pettiness and trivialities. **James 4:11**, *Do not speak against one another, brethren. . .* **Proverbs 20:3**, *Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel.*

4. **Share** with "one another."

Not just clothes, food or gifts, but answers to problems, ideas, dreams, answers to prayer, encouragement.

"What you will be tomorrow, you are becoming today."
~ George

5. **Touch** "one another."

Affection is a privilege and demonstrates a natural closeness. This should always be a positive gesture. Young men should be taught to be gentle with sisters, and there should never be any inappropriate involvement.

6. **Pray** for "one another."

Prayer will help prevent sibling rivalry. You cannot dislike someone you are praying for. **James 5:16**, *Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another.*

"When you pray for others, God changes your heart
and gives you love and wisdom."
~ George

7. **Encourage** "one another."

All teenagers struggle with difficulties. Be lavish with friendly words of encouragement. That demonstrates care. Be willing to come alongside. Build up and don't tear down! **Philippians 2:3**, *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.*



“The way you think of someone is the way you will treat him.”

Positive biblical examples of siblings:

Exodus 2:1-10, Miriam demonstrated her love for her baby brother.

Exodus 15:1, 20-21, Moses, Aaron, and Miriam served God together in harmony.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were devoted followers and cared for Jesus. Dynamic teamwork is born at home, in a family in love.

Negative examples of siblings:

Genesis 4:8, Cain slew Abel. This was a result of hatred and jealousy.

Genesis 30:1, Rachel and Leah hated and envied each other.

Genesis 37:8, Joseph was hated by his brothers.

Relationship with Friends

Choose friends wisely!

A vital part of life is having friends.

1 Corinthians 15:33 says, *Do not be deceived; bad company corrupts good morals.* Restrict the associations that your teens have. They are likely to become what their friends are. Our teenagers need friends who will pull them along in their spiritual growth and pull them up toward godliness.

Proverbs 13:20, *He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

Wicked things in this world cause the battle of the flesh to rage on!
(Galatians 5:17-21)

#1 should be the Lord Jesus. (**John 15:9-15; Joshua 1:9**) When you have a personal relationship with Jesus, you have a Friend for life!

#2 should be parents. No one cares more deeply and more genuinely.

#3 should be brothers and sisters. Other friends may come and go, but family will always be there.

How can we encourage teens to **find a good friend?**

- Be friendly.
- Be genuinely interested in people.
- Be generous with praise.
- Be considerate of feelings.
- Be alert to serve.

Positive biblical example:

I Samuel 18:1-3, . . . *the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.*

What can they do to **keep a friend?**

- Be loyal.
- Be understanding.
- Be respectful and sensitive.
- Be honest and attentive.

Proverbs 27:6, 9, *Faithful are the wounds of a friend . . . So a man's counsel is sweet to his friends.*

- Be a constant encourager.

I Samuel 23:16, *And Jonathan arose and went to David in Horesh and encouraged him in God.*

- Be a prayer warrior.

Good, better, best
Never let it rest
Until your good is better
And your better, best!

Girl/boy friendships:

II Corinthians 6:14-15, Date only committed Christians.

Colossians 3:17, Keep Christ at the center of the relationship.

Jude 20, Pray together.

I Peter 2:2, Study the Bible together.

Psalms 122:1, Attend church together.

Ephesians 5:1-4, Avoid places where you could offend Christ and stain your relationship with one another.

Teen girls:

- Young ladies are concerned about being “attractive,” but they do not always make righteous choices.
- Do not cause young men to stumble morally. (**Philippians 2:3; Proverbs 11:22; Romans 14:21**)
- Do not draw attention to body parts in dress or in body language; strive to demonstrate Christlikeness with a meek and quiet spirit.
- Stay out of a teenage (boy) friend’s “comfort zone.”

Relationship with Others

Serve others faithfully!

Illustration of Bob Farrell, founder of the Farrell Ice Cream Parlors. To him success includes four things:

1. Service – Make serving others your #1 priority.
2. Attitude – How you think about your customers is how you treat them.
3. Consistency – Set high service standards, and live them every day.
4. Teamwork – Look for ways to make each other look good.

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