



women
devoted to God
Lesson 6

*Relationships with
Family and Friends*
by Eileen Berry

*By this all men will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another.*
John 13:35

*Scriptural Commands to Govern All
Relationships*

- *Love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39)*
- *Do good to all people (Galatians 6:10)*
- *Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others (Philippians 2:4)*
- *Be patient with everyone (I Thessalonians 5:14)*
- *Honor all people (I Peter 2:17)*

B. Our sibling relationships in the light of God's providence

1. God's providential choice of our siblings
(Psalm 139:15-16; Job 23:14)

2. God's providential use of these relationships for good (Genesis 45:4-8; 50:19, 20; Romans 8:28)

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.
(Joseph to his brothers, Genesis 50:20)*

Relationships with Nieces and Nephews

- A. Delight in these relationships as God's special gifts to you.



B. Seek to be a godly influence and encourage their spiritual interest.

. . . Tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. . . . That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments. (Psalm 78:4, 6-7)

Relationships with Friends

Some “One Anothers” of Christian Friendship

A. Love one another (I Peter 1:22, I John 3:11)

B. Encourage one another (I Thessalonians 5:11;
Hebrews 10:24-25)

C. Accept one another (Romans 15:7, Ephesians 4:2)

D. Admonish one another (Romans 15:14;
Colossians 3:16)

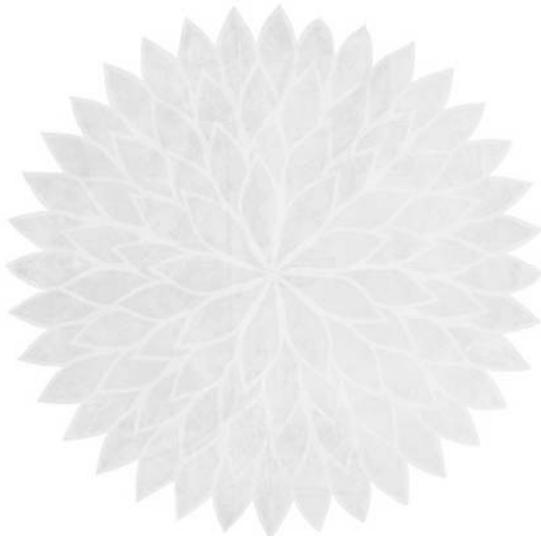
E. Serve one another (Galatians 5:13, I Peter 4:10)

F. Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32;
Colossians 3:13)

G. Pray for one another (James 5:16)

H. Weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15)

I. Rejoice with those who rejoice (Romans 12:15)



Closing Thoughts

Loving relationships with others are an evidence that we truly know God. (I John 4:7-8)

God is the one who teaches us to love.
(I Thessalonians 3:12, 4:9)

Thought from Pastor Vincent: When we experience difficulty in a relationship, we don't need to "fix" the other person. We need to let God fix us. Then we can wield a right influence in that relationship.

For Further Reading

Inrig, Gary. *Quality Friendship*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1981.

Lane, Timothy S. and Paul David Tripp. *Relationships: A Mess Worth Making*. Greensboro: New Growth Press, 2006.

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