

# LOVE & RESPECT—TWO ESSENTIALS FOR GREAT RELATIONSHIPS

Select Passages • June 17, 2007 • Pastor Mike Newman

June 17, 2007.....“Love & Respect—Two Essentials for Great Relationships”  
June 24, 2007 ..... “God’s Plan for Resolving Conflict”  
July 1, 2007 ..... “Relationships that Work: Adult Children and their Parents”  
July 8, 2007 ..... “Relationships that Work: Parents and Children”  
July 15, 2007 ..... “Relationships that Work: Working Alongside Your Boss and Co-Workers”

## RELATIONSHIPS that WORK

**1 John 4:20-21 (NLT)** <sup>20</sup>If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?

<sup>21</sup>And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.

**Matthew 22:37-39 (NLT)** <sup>37</sup>Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

**Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup>“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

**1 Peter 3:7 (NLT)** <sup>7</sup>In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

**Matthew 7:1-5 (NLT)** <sup>1</sup>“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. <sup>2</sup>For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. <sup>3</sup>“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? <sup>4</sup>How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

**Leviticus 19:3 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup>“Each of you must show great respect for your mother and father, and you must always observe my Sabbath days of rest. I am the LORD your God.

**Leviticus 19:32 (NLT)** <sup>32</sup>“Stand up in the presence of the elderly, and show respect for the aged. Fear your God. I am the LORD.

**Romans 13:7 (NLT)** <sup>7</sup>Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

**1 Peter 3:7 (NLT)** <sup>7</sup>In the same way, you husbands must give honor (respect) to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She

### Four Biblical Principles About Great Relationships:

1) Our relationship with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ about life is impacted significantly when our relationships with others are messed up.

- See 1 John 4:20-21, Matthew 22:37-39, Matthew 6:14-15, and 1 Peter 3:7

*When your relationships are struggling, there is more at stake than just those relationships.*

2) While there are times when we should point out faults in others and help them change, it is important that we focus most of our time on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ourselves.

- See Matthew 7:1-5

*You can’t change anyone except yourself.*

*Irritation is a signal for me to change.*

3) We should commit ourselves to \_\_\_\_\_

to others whether we think they deserve it or not.

- See Leviticus 19:3, Leviticus 19:32, Romans 13:7, 1 Peter 3:7, Ephesians 5:33, Ephesians 6:5, 1 Timothy 5:17, and 1 Peter 2:13-19

*Respect is essential in every good relationship!*



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*Helping People Look Biblically at the Real Issues of Life!*

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may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

**Ephesians 5:33 (NLT)** <sup>33</sup>So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

**Ephesians 6:5 (NLT)** <sup>5</sup>Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ.

**1 Timothy 5:17 (NLT)** <sup>17</sup>Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching.

**1 Peter 2:13-19 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup>For the Lord's sake, respect all human authority—whether the king as head of state, <sup>14</sup>or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. <sup>15</sup>It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. <sup>16</sup>For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. <sup>17</sup>Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king. <sup>18</sup>You who are slaves must accept the authority of your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel. <sup>19</sup>For God is pleased with you when you do what you know is right and patiently endure unfair treatment.

**Matthew 22:37-39 (NLT)** <sup>37</sup>Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

**John 13:34-35 (NLT)** <sup>34</sup>So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. <sup>35</sup>Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

**1 John 3:18-19 (NLT)** <sup>18</sup>Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. <sup>19</sup>Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)** <sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. <sup>6</sup>It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. <sup>7</sup>Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

**1 John 4:9-11 (NLT)** <sup>9</sup>God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. <sup>10</sup>This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

#### 4) We should demonstrate \_\_\_\_\_

to others regardless of our feelings toward them.

- See Matthew 22:37-39, John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:18-19, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, and 1 John 4:9-11

*In the Bible, the word love is most often not about feelings but about how we act toward other people.*

*Biblically speaking, it is possible to love someone and not really like them.*

*As a result of today's sermon, I will...*

### How to Begin a Relationship with Jesus

**Believe** that Jesus is who He said He was, that He came and died on the cross, and that He arose from the dead three days later.

**Acknowledge** your sins and ask God to forgive you.

**Submit** yourself to follow God's teachings for life.

**Express** your desire to have this kind of relationship to God.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the elders of pastors following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office (717-762-7147) to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website by clicking on the “Beginning Your Journey” link.

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