



“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”
2 Peter 1:21

Building Blocks of a Successful Relationship, 2

by Alex Hale

Research shows that a major factor contributing to the happiness of people is having significant and meaningful relationships. In other words, we know that relationships are important. However, research also shows that over the last several years, though our society may be more “connected” than ever, many people feel disconnected or isolated from one another. In Ephesians 4, Paul shares a number of building blocks for successful relationships. In the original context, he is speaking of our interactions within the body of Christ. In last week’s article, we spoke of the importance of authenticity, or speaking the truth with one another (Eph 4:25). What can we add to that?

2. PATIENCE

Ephesians 4:26-27 (ESV) Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.

In our relationships, how do we handle our anger? In any relationship you are going to have some disagreements and disappointments. However, when this happens, we must be careful with how we display our anger. When we get angry with someone, we must handle it appropriately and not sin in the process.

The North American porcupine has 30,000 quills protruding from its body. Because of this, it shouldn’t surprise you that they usually travel alone. If the porcupine gets too close to someone or something, it does one of two things – it either *withdraws* or it *attacks*. Many times we are not much different than that. To the contrary, we should be slow to act in our anger (see James 1:19-20).



3. SELFLESSNESS

Ephesians 4:28 (ESV) Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Though we may not steal from others, we all have the tendency to be selfish people – we look out for our own interests; we make sure that our own needs are being met. Do you have relationships with people like that? You always end up eating where they want to? You always watch the movie they want to? You always end up playing the game they want to?

What would happen in our relationships if we approached them with the attitude of “I’m going to put the other person’s needs above my own”? Paul is telling us to have a concern for others. A disciple is not looking to see what he or she can *take* from someone else, but rather what he or she can *give*.

The Bible defines love as selflessness or sacrifice. Do not say that you love someone if you are not willing to sacrifice for them (John 15:13). We have been called to die for one another; yet many times we won’t even help people at all. Who do you call when you run out of gas on the side of the road? Who do you call when you need a ride to the airport early in the morning? Who calls *you*? He who desires friends must first be friendly.



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When We Meet

Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am
 Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

Our Elders

R.D. Hopper
 Norman Kemper

Our Deacons

Troy Hunter
 Kelly Kendall
 Tony Ramick

Our Preacher

Alex Hale