

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

September 20, 2016

Issue No. 265 Mark Aites, Editor

Relationships

"The planks in the foundation of a good relationship are added one at a time." – Kathleen Watkins, Jan. 28, 1994

"If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships – the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world at peace." – Franklin D. Roosevelt

"When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic, but with creatures bristling with prejudice and motivated by pride and vanity." – Dale Carnegie, *How To Win Friends And Influence People*

"We know from daily life that we exist for other people first of all, for whose smiles and well-being our own happiness depends." – Albert Einstein

"Mutual caring relationships requires kindness and patience, tolerance, optimism, joy in the other's achievements, confidence in oneself, and the ability to give without undue thought of gain." – Fred Rogers, *The World According To Mister Rogers: Important Things To Remember*

What would life be without relationships? Yes, we can enjoy God's creation, but being able to share with others enhances the experience.

We have so many relationships to consider; that of parents and children, boyfriends and girlfriends, husbands and wives, friends, neighbors, classmates, and co-workers. And in the church especially do we enjoy our relationships with those of like precious faith (cf. 2 Pet. 1:1).

In speaking of relationships, it is interesting to note that in the book of Ephesians, Paul has much to say on the topic. The fifth chapter centers on a discussion of marriage, noting the responsibility of husbands and wives. In the sixth chapter, Paul addresses the relationship of parents and children, and then even proceeds to discuss the relationship of masters and servants. One can make application of the latter by applying the principles to employers and employees.

There are certainly general principles that will go a long way in cultivating good relationships within Scripture. For example, "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matt. 7:12). "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

It seems rather obvious that our Lord wants us to cultivate good and meaningful relationships. Paul wrote of being "knit together in love" (Col. 2:2,19). It is that closeness that needs to be fostered among God's children. Such an effort begins with you.