

"SEVEN KEYS TO GREAT RELATIONSHIPS!"

Colossians Chapter 3:14-17

> SEVEN KEYS TO GREAT RELATIONSHIPS:

#1 – THE LOVE OF GOD!

- **ABOVE all these things PUT ON LOVE** – Choose to love as Christ chose to love you, as God our Father gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16); let's love Jesus way turn to **John 13:34-35**; plus **John 15:9-14**. John Broger writes, "God has enabled you to forgive others. You can love even your enemies. Both forgiveness and biblical love are not dependent upon your feelings but upon an act of your will as you respond to God's love to you."-

Question: Is love a commandment or option? Answer: Matthew 22:34-40

#2 – THE PEACE OF GOD!

- **Does PEACE RULE IN YOUR HEART? Beware lest anger, bitterness, jealousy, envy, lust, wickedness, selfishness, doubt, fear and any other ungodly rulers should take control of our hearts.** The word translated "rule" is an athletic term. It means, "to preside at the games and distribute the prizes." *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary* defines **PEACE** (Heb. *shalom*, "peace, health"; Grk. *eirene*, "unity, concord") - As a term used in different senses in the Scriptures. (1) Frequently with reference to outward conditions of tranquility and thus of individuals, of communities, of churches, and of nations (e.g., **Numbers 6:26; 1 Samuel 7:14; 1 Kings 4:24; Acts 9:31**). (2) Christian unity (e.g., **Ephesians 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:13**). (3) In its deepest application, spiritual peace through restored relations of harmony with God (e.g., **Isaiah 9:6-7; 26:3; Luke 2:14; John 14:27; Acts 10:36; Romans 1:7; 5:1; Galatians 5:22**; etc.). Paul writes in **Romans 5:1-2** - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 8:6* - *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 10:15* - *"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"* Jesus said in **Matthew 5:9** - *Blessed (happy) are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

#3 – THE WORD OF CHRIST!

- **Let the WORD OF CHRIST dwell in you richly in all wisdom – Word sampler Psalm 119.**

#4 – THE WORSHIP OF GOD!

- **Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs – In Ephesians 5:18-19** - **be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,** Music was part of everyday life for the ancient Hebrew people. Music was a part of family merrymaking, such as the homecoming party for the prodigal son (Luke 15:25). Music welcomed heroes and celebrated victories. Miriam and other women sang, danced, and played timbrels when the Israelites miraculously escaped the Egyptians (**Exodus 15:20**), and the Song of Moses in **Exodus 15** is the earliest recorded song in the Bible. Jephthah's daughter greeted him with timbrels to celebrate his victory over the Ammonites (**Judges 11:34**). David's triumph brought music (**1 Samuel 18:6**). Music was used in making war and crowning kings (**Judges 7:18-20; 1 Kings 1:39-40; 2 Chronicles 20:28**). Wartime music-making was apparently little more than making noise, as in the fall of Jericho (**Joshua 6**). There was music for banquets and feasts (**Isaiah 5:12; 24:8-9**) (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary) **Hebrews 13:15** - *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*

#5 – HEARTS OF GRACE!

- **Singing with GRACE in your HEARTS to the LORD - Ephesians 2:4-10** - *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

#6 – Doing WORDS OR DEEDS ACCORDING TO JESUS!

> **WORDS** - Practice these verbal verses: **Matt 12:34-37**- *For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil*

man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Prov 16:21- The wise in heart will be called prudent, and sweetness of the lips increases learning.

Prov 16:23- The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.

Prov 15:28- The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

Prov 18:13- He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him

James 1:19-20- So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Prov 16:24- Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

Eph 4:15-16- speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ

> **DEEDS** – H. Norman Wright in his book *Communication: Key to Your Marriage* writes, "The following is a list of some of the "one another" commands found in the New Testament related to Christian communication": (Our Christian challenge: Grade yourself on a scale of 1 to 5, 5 is excellent, 1 is "come on man!")

_____ **Love one another - John 13:34 & John 15:12,17.**

_____ **Forgive one another - Ephesians 4:32 & Colossians 3:13.**

_____ **Be servants to one another - Galatians 5:13.**

_____ **Show hospitality to one another - 1 Peter 4:7-10.**

_____ **Pray for one another - James 5:16.**

_____ **Build up (edify) one another - Romans 14:19, 1 Thessalonians 5:11.**

_____ **Greet one another - Romans 16:16, 1 Peter 5:14.**

_____ **Forbear one another - Ephesians 4:1-2 & Colossians 3:13-14.**

_____ **Do not judge one another - Romans 14:13.**

_____ **Do not speak evil of one another - James 4:11.**

_____ **Do not murmur against one another - James 5:9.**

_____ **Do not bite and devour one another - Galatians 5:15.**

_____ **Do not provoke and envy one another - Galatians 5:26.**

_____ **Have the same care for one another - 1 Corinthians 12:25-26.**

_____ **Receive one another - Romans 15:7.**

_____ **Teach one another - Colossians 3:16.**

_____ **Admonish (counsel) one another - Romans 15:14 & Colossians 3:16.**

_____ **Submit to one another - Ephesians 5:21-22.**

_____ **Confess your sins to one another - James 5:16.**

_____ **Do not lie to one another - Colossians 3:9.**

_____ **Be kind to one another - Ephesians 4:32.**

_____ **Comfort one another - 1 Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11.**

> A poem to live by: A careless word may kindle strife;
A cruel word may wreck a life.
A bitter word may hate instill;
A brutal word may smite and kill.
A gracious word may smooth the way;
A joyous word may light the day.
A timely word may lessen stress;
A loving word may heal and bless.

#7 – ALWAYS GIVE THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER!

- Always GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THINGS ALWAYS!