

UNITED

PART 1

BUILDING BRIDGES and MAKING FRIENDS

Ephesians 4:2–6 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves **united** in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

1. SELFISHNESS DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS.

James 4:1 What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you?

SELFLESSNESS BUILDS THEM.

Philippians 2:4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

2. PRIDE DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS.

Proverbs 13:10 Arrogant know-it-alls stir up discord, but wise men and women listen to each other's counsel.

HUMILITY BUILDS THEM.

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.

3. INSECURITY DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS.

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that.

LOVE BUILDS THEM.

1 John 4:18–19 Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear...We love each other because he loved us first.

4. RESENTMENT DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS.

Hebrews 12:15 Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

FORGIVENESS BUILDS THEM.

Colossians 3:13–14 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.