

Examining Your Relationships

August 9, 2002

Introduction

- **Has there been an instance where you have said something or acted in a way that can be construed as being unwelcoming, unloving or unaccepting?**

Spend some time over the next week examining your heart and life and make sure that this is not true of you.

I. Your Relationship with God

EXAMINATION:

Are you pursuing Christ first and foremost?

- Our relationship with Christ will always affect our relationships with others. When we are not loving God with all of our heart, soul, strength and mind, when we are not putting Christ first and foremost in our lives then all our other relationships suffer.

QUESTION:

How do you pursue Christ first and foremost in your life?

ANSWER:

- Mark 12:30
- John 14:21-24
- 2 Peter 3:18
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17/Philippians 4:6-7
- Colossians 3:1-2
- Philippians 4:9-10

APPLICATION:

- **Identify an area above that is a weakness in your life and begin to work on that area.**

II. Your Relationships with other Believers

EXAMINATION:

Are you relating with other believers appropriately and biblically?

- Often when issues arise in believer's relationships with one another, they are not following the principles laid out in the Scripture on how we are to treat one another. We are given clear commands in the Scriptures that we are to follow regarding how we are to treat other believers.

QUESTION:

How are we to relate with or treat fellow believer's in Christ?

ANSWER:

- Not only does God serve as the ultimate blueprint for a biblical relationship, but He gives us clear directives or exhortations on how we are to treat one another:
- Romans 14:19
- Romans 15:7
- Romans 15:14
- 1 Corinthians 12:15
- Ephesians 4:25
- Ephesians 4:32
- Philippians 2:13
- Colossians 3:13

- 1 Thessalonians 3:12
- 1 Thessalonians 5:15
- James 4:11
- James 5:9
- 1 Peter 4:10
- 1 Peter 5:14

APPLICATION:

Take the attached chart and identify some areas that you can put into practice on a daily basis.

III. Your Relationships with Unbelievers

EXAMINATION:

Count the number of non-Christians with whom you somewhat regularly relate? If all of the unbelievers that you relate with suddenly became Christians, How many of them would think that you had a significant role in helping them understand the Gospel?

QUESTION:

How are you supposed to relate with unbelievers? What is your responsibility?

ANSWER:

- Matthew 10:32
- Acts 1:8
- 1 Peter 3:15

- Matthew 5:13-16
- Philippians 2:15
- 1 Peter 2:9
- 1 Peter 2:12

First, notice that our primary responsibility is to live out the Gospel before the watching world. We are to be examples to the unbelievers that we come in contact with.

Second, notice that we must personally testify to those that we come in contact with. We must be willing to confess Christ and proclaim Him to the watching world.

Third, notice that we must be willing and ready to defend the Gospel when it is attacked. We must defend the faith!

APPLICATION:

- **Is there anything you think you should do to improve your ability to bring the truth of Christ to unbelievers?**