

Vision & Values

Transformational Relationships

1 Samuel 18-23

“Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” (Genesis 2:18)

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17)

God has designed us so that we must have relationships to grow into all that He desires us to be.

4 Levels of Relationships

1. The _____ level: Initial friendships

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”
(Hebrews 13:2)

2. The _____ level: Social friendships

Choose to spend time with - mutual interests

3. The _____ level: Close

friendships

Often born out of adversity or a shared need

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” (Proverbs 17:17)

“Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.” (John 11:5)

4. The _____ level: Intimate friendships

“And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles.” (Luke 6:13)

5 Characteristics of Transformational Relationships

1. Commitment born out of _____ (18:1-3)

- _____ (18:3)
- _____ (19:1-6) - Not just words, but actions
- _____ (20:30-33)

2. _____ in one another (18:4)

A friend often sees something in us that we might not see in ourselves

“Your best friend helps bring out the very best that is in you.” Henry Ford

3. _____ (20:1-4)

Often one of the most difficult things to do and to do well

“Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”
(Proverbs 27:5-6)

4. _____ (20:41)

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” (Romans 12:15)

5. _____ (23:15-18)

A friend is one who comes in when the whole world has gone out

Q: How can I develop these types of relationships?

A: By becoming that type of a _____

“A man who has friends must himself be friendly.”(Proverbs 18:24a, NKJV)

No matter how great your human relationships, there will always be an

emptiness, a void in your life if you do not develop a relationship with God!

The deepest, most powerful relationship you can ever have is a relationship with God through Jesus Christ

Making It Personal

What is my current relationship with God through Jesus Christ? What can I do to deepen that relationship?

As I think about my current relationships with others, who do I have in my life at the “Change Level”? What can I do to develop these relationships?

Which characteristic of transformational relationships do I most need to increase in my life? With God’s enabling grace, what can I do to develop this characteristic more fully in my life?