

November 5, 2023

Growing in Relationships

by Ken Weliever

If you think your family has problems, consider the marriage mayhem created when 76-year-old Bill Baker of London wed Edna Harvey.

She happened to be his granddaughter's husband's mother. That's where the confusion began, according to Baker's granddaughter, Lynn.

"My mother-in-law is now my step-grandmother. My grandfather is now my stepfather-in-law. My mom is my sister-in-law and my brother is my nephew. But even crazier is that I'm now married to my uncle and my own children are my cousins."

This bizarre episode sounds like the old country song, "I'm My Own Grandpa." But in comical fashion it's a reminder that relationships can be complicated. Difficult. Challenging. Confusing. And sometimes messy.

Our families, communities, churches, and professions all point to the fact that life is about relationships. It's really not about our accomplishments, possessions, position or pursuit of pleasure. It's about relationships.

The late Dee Bowman authored a book with a title that succinctly echoes this sentiment—"It's All About the People." However, our relationships with others must be nourished and nurtured. To experience personal and

spiritual growth is to cultivate, develop, and enhance our relationships.

Think about how much of the Bible involves relationships and issues exhortations regarding how we interact and treat others.

The 59 "one another" commands are all about our relationships in the Body of Christ.

Much is written about family relationships in Proverbs as well as in Paul's famous treatise in Ephesians 5:23-6:4. From these texts we are reminded of the importance of love, honor, understanding, and mutual respect in our homes.

The great love chapter of 1 Corinthians 13 offers 15 specific qualities and characteristics we ought to exhibit in all relationships. Among these are patience, kindness, and good manners.

Paul's letters to the young preachers Timothy and Titus are filled with admonitions regarding our attitude as we minister to others. "The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness" (2 Tim. 2:24).

Of course, "The Golden Rule" from Jesus' Mountain Message has become known universally as the gold standard of getting along with other people.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies' Class - Tuesday, November 14 at 10 a.m.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

“Treat others the way you want to be treated” (Matt. 7:12).

In application of these principles, an unknown author offers what he calls “The 10 Commandments of Human Relations.”

1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes seventy-two muscles to frown, only fourteen to smile.
3. Call people by name. Music to anyone’s ears is the sound of his/her own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do is genuinely a pleasure, and if it isn’t, learn to make it so.
6. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like almost everybody if you try.
7. Be generous with praise, cautious with criticism.

8. Be considerate with the feelings of others. There are usually three sides to a controversy: yours, the other fellow’s, and the right one.

9. Be alert to serve. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

10. Add to this a good sense of humor, a big dose of patience, and a dash of humility, and you will be rewarded manifold through life.

Growing in our relationships is not theoretical, but practical. Not abstract, but concrete.

Building mutually satisfying and long lasting relationships calls for commitment. Requires effort. Demands self-sacrifice. And is formed and forged in respect, consideration, and “the milk of human kindness.”

Finally, this thought as paraphrased

from Oscar Wilde. Ultimately the bond of all relationships, whether in the family, the church, or our friends socially is conversation and communication.

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson’s lymphoma has returned and is undergoing chemo.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell’s sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Vicki Stevens has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

Debbie McMurray is undergoing immunotherapy. PET results this week were encouraging.

Mike McMurray is regaining strength.

Terry Behrns was planning to move to his sister’s home Nov 3.

Harold Hammons is in Granite Mesa, room 308

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

**To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s
upplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

Darrell Trammel
512-756-4493 Office
Darrell@
oakswestchurchofChrist.com

Elders

George Gresham
Darrell Trammel

Contact Us

Address:

P.O. Box 675
Burnet, TX 78611

Call:

(512) 756-4493

E-Mail:

oakswestchurch@gmail.com

Website:

oakswestchurchofchrist.com