

## *Breaking Through* **Getting Along in Relationships**

### I. Introduction

- A. I Peter 3:8-11 (NAS) <sup>8</sup>*To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; <sup>9</sup>not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup>For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. <sup>11</sup>HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT."*

### II. Six Ingredients That Will Help You to Get Along in Relationships

#### A. Be harmonious and sympathetic

1. Sympathy meets two basic needs:
  - a. To be understood
  - b. To validate our feelings
2. How do I become sympathetic?
  - a. Learn to listen
    - i. James 1:19b (NAS) *But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.*
  - b. Try to put yourself in their situation.

#### B. Be brotherly

1. I Peter 3:8 (NAS) *To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly.*
2. Romans 12:10 (NAS) *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.*
3. Being "brotherly" means commitment to that person!
4. I Corinthians 13:7 (NLT) *Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.*
5. Romans 15:7a (NAS) *So accept each other just as Christ has accepted you.*
6. "Acceptance" means my love for you is not dependent upon you changing!

#### C. Be kindhearted

1. I Peter 3:8 (NAS) *To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted.*
2. Colossians 3:12 (NAS) *So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*
3. "Kindness" - - "Love in action"
  - a. By what we say to other people.
    - i. Ephesians 4:29 (NAS) *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.*
  - b. By how we act toward each other.
    - i. I John 3:18 (NAS) *Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*

#### D. Be humble in spirit

1. I Peter 3:8 (NAS) *To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit.*
2. Proverbs 29:23 (NAS) *A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.*
3. James 4:10 (NAS) *Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.*
4. I Peter 5:6 (NAS) *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.*
5. "I was wrong!"
6. "Please forgive me."

E. Be merciful

1. I Peter 3:9 (NLT) *Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate when people say unkind things about you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God wants you to do, and he will bless you for it.*
2. Mercy is giving more kindness than justice demands!
3. Colossians 3:13 (NAS) *Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*
4. Forgiveness is a choice, not an emotion!

F. Be mature

1. I Peter 3:10-11 (NLT) <sup>10</sup>*For the Scriptures say, "If you want a happy life and good days, keep your tongue from speaking evil, and keep your lips from telling lies."* <sup>11</sup>*Turn away from evil and do good. Work hard at living in peace with others."*
2. Psalm 141:3 (NAS) *Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.*
3. Proverbs 12:25 (NAS) *Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a good word makes it glad.*
4. The more selfish you are, the more immature you are!
5. Let's all make it a goal to grow up, before we grow old!

### III. Conclusion