

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- I. Biblical references
 - A. There are no direct references to "interpersonal relationships"
 - B. The Bible is full of indirect references to relationships between persons
 - 1. Garden of Eden - Adam and Eve - Gen. 2,3
 - 2. Ten commandments - Exod. 20:2-17
 - a. First four commandments - relationship with God
 - b. Last six commandments - relationships with other people
 - 3. New covenant commandments of love
 - a. Love God - Matt. 22:37-40
 - b. Love your neighbor as yourself - Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:14
 - 4. New heaven and earth - Rev. 21:1-8
- II. God's intent for interpersonal relationships.
 - A. The Trinity is the perfect model for interpersonal relationships.
 - 1. The three persons of the Godhead interact in perfect interpersonal relationship.
 - 2. The perfect character of God is expressed interpersonally to the other persons of the Godhead.
 - a. Love
 - b. Relational personhood
 - B. Ideal human interpersonal relationships require the Divine character expressed through human behavior toward others.
 - C. The perfect and ideal community of interpersonal relationships must be based on the common-unity of God's presence and the expression of His character toward one another.
- III. Broken personal relationships attributable to
 - A. Selfishness - Gal. 5:19-21; Phil. 2:3,4
 - B. Lack of communication - Eph. 4:
- IV. Differing personalities will tend to exhibit differing SELF-ishness patterns that are detrimental to their interpersonal relationships.
 - A. "S" pattern
 - 1. tends to dominate and intimidate others
 - 2. uses people to accomplish own objectives
 - 3. intolerant of imperfection and weakness in others
 - B. "E" pattern
 - 1. willing to compromise in order to be liked by others
 - 2. always talking; not a good listener
 - 3. tends to exaggerate; less than truthful
 - C. "L" pattern
 - 1. passive, rather than active participants
 - 2. non-confrontational; won't address problems
 - 3. manipulate by claiming inadequacy, lack of time or energy
 - D. "F" pattern
 - 1. think their way, procedure, technique is the only way
 - 2. dogmatic about their belief-system being "right"
 - 3. content more important than people
- V. World-system contrary to God's intent for interpersonal relationships
 - A. Psychological
 - 1. Blame/victimization
 - 2. Individualism
 - 3. Selfism, narcissism

- B. Religious
 - 1. Authoritarianism
 - 2. Absolutism
 - 3. Activism
 - 4. Elitism
- C. Political
 - 1. Ideological power struggles
 - 2. Authoritarianism
 - 3. Isolationism
- D. Financial
 - 1. Materialism, covetousness; "use people, love things"
 - 2. Success orientation
- VI. Proper interpersonal relationships will acknowledge, accept and respect differing positional roles.
 - A. God and man
 - 1. Christ is Lord - I Pet. 3:15
 - 2. Foundational to all other interpersonal relationships
 - B. Husband and wife - Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:18,19; I Pet. 3:1-7
 - C. Parent and child - Exod. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20,21
 - D. Employer and employee - Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:22-25; I Pet. 2:18
 - E. Leadership and people
 - 1. Church - I Tim. 3:1-10; 5:17-20; Titus 1:5-9; Heb. 13:17; I Pet. 5:1-4
 - 2. Government - Rom. 13:1,5,7; I Pet. 2:13-17
 - 3. Social organizations
- VII. Unique context of interpersonal relationships within the Church
 - A. Based upon personal relationship with God in Christ - I Pet. 2:17
 - B. Christ in one Christian wants to relate properly to Christ in another
 - C. Social community of interpersonal relationships in Body of Christ.
 - D. Expression of divine action between persons
 - 1. Character (fruit) - Gal. 5:22,23
 - 2. Function (gifts) - Rom. 12:3-8; I Cor. 12; Eph. 4:11,12; I Pet. 4:10,11
- VIII. Examples of traits of character expression of God in interpersonal relationships of Christians.
 - A. love, compassion - Jn. 13:34,35; I Cor. 13; Gal. 5:13; Col. 3:12,14; Heb. 13:1-3
 - B. honesty, integrity, trust, reliability, faithfulness - Gal. 5:22,23; Eph. 4:15,25
 - C. justice, fairness - Matt. 23:23; James 2:1,7
 - D. humility, meekness - Matt. 23:12; I Pet. 5:5,6;
 - E. patience - Col. 3:12; I Thess. 5:14; endurance - I Pet. 2:20; 4:12-14
 - F. non-retaliatory - I Thess. 5:15; I Pet. 2:21-23; 3:9-12
 - G. deference, submission - Eph. 5:21; Heb. 13:17; I Pet. 5:5
 - H. transparent, open, listener
 - I. encouragement - I Thess. 2:11,12; 4:18; 5:11,14; Heb. 3:13; 10:24,25
 - J. acceptance, non-judgmentalism - Matt. 7:1-3; Rom. 5:15,16; 14:1,3; 15:7
 - K. forgiveness, reconciliation - Matt. 5:23,24; Lk. 17:3-6; II Cor. 5:19; Eph. 4:32
 - L. peacemaker - Matt. 5:9; I Thess. 5:13
 - M. confession, sharing, vulnerability - James 5:16
 - N. help the weak - Rom. 14:1; I Thess. 5:14
 - O. confrontation - Rom. 15:14; I Thess. 5:14
 - P. supportive; flexibility; accept differences, eccentricities, weaknesses
 - Q. agree to disagree - Rom. 14:5; I Cor. 10:31