

Building Significant Relationships

- Having people in our lives where there is a mutual sense of acceptance, love, trust, encouragement and healthy accountability, is one of our deepest desires yet one of our greatest challenges.

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- Our fast-paced culture, with its time pressures and distractions, makes it difficult to focus on developing deeper friendships. In seeking to reach our goals, we can miss some meaningful relationships.

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- Despite such obstacles, it is not only possible it is a Biblical command that we build significant Christian relationships. We will look at five key steps that are a part of this process:

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- **1. Developing respect and reverence (Psalm 139)**
 - a. Affirming the primacy of relationship
 - b. Affirming a person's worth and uniqueness
 - c. Affirming a person's fullest potential

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- **2. Cultivating an awareness and expression of our needs (Philippians 2:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:10)**
 - a. I am responsible for knowing what I need and being willing to express those needs.
 - b. I must determine what needs can realistically be met in what relationships.
 - c. What is it the other person is needing from me?

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- **3. Developing the ability to give and receive love (John 15:9-15)**
 - a. The essential tool? Listening.
 - b. After listening, I must respond.
 - c. I must be willing to receive love.

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- **4. Taking the necessary risks (Developing trust)** (Proverbs 3:5-6; Hebrews 11:6)
 - a. Trust begins with integrity, yours and that of the person you are trusting.
 - b. Trust develops gradually, through different levels.
 - c. I must be willing to be vulnerable.

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- **5. Developing patterns of responsibility** (Joshua 24:19-28)
 - a. Making a commitment to another person's growth.
 - b. Being accountable to another.
 - c. Doing what is in his/her best interests.
