

Key Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:18 GOD'S WORD

God has done all this. *He has <u>restored our relationship with Him</u> through Christ,* and has *given us this ministry of <u>restoring relationships</u>.*

Life is relationships...everything else is just details.

Psalm 133:1 GOD'S WORD See how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in harmony!

Causes of conflict and responses to conflict...

Proverbs 13:10 NLT **Pride leads to conflict**; those who **take advice** are wise.

- ✓ Causes: Hurt...Fear...Frustration
- ✓ Responses: Explosion...Implosion...Resolution

Communication is the key to solving conflict.

Proverbs 13:17 TLB An unreliable messenger can cause a lot of trouble. *Reliable communication permits progress.*

Communication is a matter of the heart...

1. Take <u>care</u> of your heart.

Proverbs 4:23 NLT <u>Guard your heart</u> above all else, for *it determines the course of your life*.

Ezekiel 36:26 NLT

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your <u>stony, stubborn heart</u> and give you <u>a tender, responsive heart</u>.

2. Speak from a healthy heart.

Matthew 15:18 NLT

But the words you speak come from the heart — that's what defiles you.

Proverbs 18:21 Message

Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit – *you choose*.

Ephesians 4:29 NCV

When you talk, do not say harmful things, but <u>say what people need</u> — words that will help others become stronger.

Relational Health

Matter of the Heart

3. Listen from your heart.

James 1:19 NLT Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all <u>be quick to listen</u>, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

4. Examine your heart.

2 Corinthians 13:5 NASU

<u>Test yourselves</u> to see if you are in the faith; <u>examine yourselves!</u> Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that <u>Jesus Christ is in you</u> — unless indeed you fail the test?

Matthew 7:1-2 CEV

1. Don't condemn others, and God won't condemn you. 2 God will be as hard on you as you are on others! He will treat you exactly as you treat them.

Do your best to live with a peaceful heart.

Romans 12:18 NCV

Do your best to live in peace with everyone.

- ✓ Live Righteous
- ✓ Recognize who the real enemy is
- Demonstrate Forgiveness
- ✓ Right Word Right Time Right Reason

Ephesians 4:29 CEV Stop all your dirty talk. Say the right thing at the right time and help others by what you say.

Say the right thing at the right time and help others by what

- ✓ Make relationships the priority.
- ✓ Live with the joy of the LORD in your heart.

Nehemiah 8:10 NKJV ...the joy of the Lord is your strength.

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