

3.) C _____ to a person long term.

I. Why are relationships so important?

Mt 22:39 (NLT) A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.

I Jn 4:20-21 (NLT) ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.

II. How can we have extraordinary relationships?

1.) C _____ about others.

John 13:34-35 (NLT) ³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

2.) Honest c _____.

Prov 17:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Prov 27:5 – 6 (NLT) ⁵ An open rebuke is better than hidden love! ⁶ Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.

Ruth 1:16-17 (NLT) ¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. ¹⁷ Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"

II Sam 9:10 (NLT) ¹⁰ You and your sons and servants are to farm the land for him to produce food for your master's household. But Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, will eat here at King David's table."

III. Primary reasons people do not find deep, long lasting relationships.

1.) Do not _____ self.

2.) Too _____.

3.) Wounded, rejected, _____.

4.) _____ to risk.

Ps 41:9 (NLT) ⁹ Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me.

Ps 55:12-14 (NLT) ¹² It is not an enemy who taunts me— I could bear that. It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me— I could have hidden from them. ¹³ Instead, it is you—my equal, my companion and close friend ¹⁴ What good fellowship we once enjoyed as we walked together to the house of God.

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