

12) Needs of Everyone

To varying degrees, everyone has six basic needs: Spiritual, Educational, Emotional, Physical, Relational, Vocational. They may fluctuate in importance or demanding our attention, but they never go away. Remember that the next time you ask someone, “How are you?” and they answer, “I’m fine.” The reality is any, if not all, of these needs are afflicting them. How has God prepared you to help them? God will not ask you to do something for which he hasn’t prepared you. Look at an example of how Christians interact when they see relational needs.

Relational needs- showing love of God by helping develop stronger interpersonal relationships

† ***Ephesians 4:32*** *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

God has blessed Christians with the perfect example in Jesus. Sinless himself, he was constantly surrounded by sinners. Yet he showed nothing but genuine love. So how do you get along with those sinners that are so irritating? It starts with a nonjudgmental understanding that all are sinners before God. Then it moves forward in love and compassion. Being reminded of the love God has shown in Jesus, you can live in harmony as brothers and sisters of Christ.

Getting along with those around you requires something beyond just tolerating them. The old saying *Familiarity breeds contempt* highlights how humans react when the closeness factor wears thin. Remembering the negative things in a relationship appeals to human nature. The ego feels boosted if the other person can be lowered by reminding them of their flaws.

You battle your human nature daily. Using the the power of the Word of God, look for ways to show God’s love as you sympathize with a sad or suffering brother or sister in Christ. Speak the truth of God to encourage the discouraged, reassuring them of forgiveness and salvation. Help them to look beyond the pain of today. Point them to the cross of Jesus, and the resurrection. Remind them they are part of the best family in all of creation-as God’s own dear child! Live in him, with him, for him.

Your life is not your own. Your life is your personal ministry to God.