

- I. The Key to Building Good Relationships (Matt. 22:37-39).**
  - A. First and foremost, love God the way you should.**
    - 1. We love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19).**
    - 2. Know, understand, and accept God's love by spending time in the Word and in prayer.**
    - 3. Do this and God will fill you with his love, which will enable you to love yourself like you should.**
  - B. Love yourself the way you should.**
    - 1. Love God right and understand who you are in Christ and what you have in Christ.**
    - 2. This will give you security and significance, which will result in good, godly self-esteem.**
  - C. Love others the way you should – get your love for God right, get your love for yourself right, and your love for people will be right.**
- II. The Jesus Approach to Building Relationships.**
  - A. He took the initiative to build relationships (John 4:3-7).**
  - B. He didn't allow prejudice to stand in the way of building relationships (Luke 19:1-10).**
  - C. He rarely gave up on building a relationship (John 8:2-11).**
  - D. Sharing a meal was one of his favorite ways to build a relationship (Matt. 9:9-13).**
  - E. He showed us that relationships are more important than man-made rules and traditions (John 5:2-10).**
- III. Practical Things We Can Do to Build Good Relationship.**
  - A. Be real; always be "under construction" – with God as your general contractor – but be true to who you are.**
  - B. Begin each day by asking God to bring people into your life to love and lead to Christ.**
  - C. Be friendly ...smile ...exhibit kindness.**
  - D. Don't wait for people to approach you; take the initiative.**
  - E. Focus on other people; listen to them; look them in the eye.**
  - F. Be there for people during times of celebration and sorrow (Rom. 12:15 and Ecc. 3:4).**
  - G. Be an encourager (1 Thess. 5:11 and Heb. 3:13).**
  - H. Have a good sense of humor; learn to laugh.**
  - I. Be a giver not a taker (Acts 20:35 and 2 Cor. 9:7).**
  - J. Do what you must to be forgiving and forgiven.**