

## Going Deeper in Your Relationships

Remember to keep your priorities in alignment with the Word. We are called to be in fellowship and community with one another. We are called to love our neighbor as ourself, which means we need to love them well. And in order to love them well we need to be involved in one another's lives on a more authentic level. However, we also need to remember to keep our relationship with Christ first, then our husband, our children, and so forth. Women often fall to the temptation of taking their concerns to their girl friends instead of taking them to the Lord. Be aware of this temptation.

As ambassadors for Christ, His city on a hill, we are responsible for modeling to the world, loving, holy relationships. This was critically important to Christ. Matt 22:35-40, Emphasizes the importance of relationship with the God and others. Join in the work of Christ, through our conduct in our relationships. We are either helping toward the goal of restoration, creating division, or simply not engaging in the big battle that we are all called to be warriors in.

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God and he who loves is begotten of God and is coming to know and understand God" 1 John 4:7, AMP

Do I allow others into my life on a level where they can "know" my heart?

**Am I good at loving others {grieving and rejoicing with them, serving and receiving their love}?** We may be good at grieving and rejoicing with others, but if we don't ever reciprocate trust and let others into our lives on a level of seeing our hearts, then they may not feel like they know us... which is unloving.

## Have you avoided a potentially healthy and God glorifying relationship out of fear of getting hurt or disappointing them?

In what ways do feel the Lord calling you to change in your relationships? In what ways could you love people better?

Ladies, we are modeling for our children, what friendship is supposed to look like. We need to be intentional about our friendships and also about providing opportunities for them to also engage in them.



## Lord Jesus,

We thank you that you came and died so we might be restored into holy relationship with our sisters in Christ. Help us to break free of any fears that may be binding us from growing closer in our knowledge and experience of you more. Please give us courage to reach out to those you have placed in our lives and to be conduites of growth. Help us to take chances and to trust others with our hearts. Help us not to judge others on issues that are of liberty for us to choose for ourselves, but also help us to speak truth in love into others lives when we do see one another in sin. And Lord, please help us to be wise enough to accept exhortation, warning and admonishment if and when we need it to get us back in alignment with your Word. Help us to be full of grace so we can give it freely. Lord, we want more of you in our relationships. Help to make our time with one another productive for spiritual growth and for the glory and advancement of your Kingdom. Lord, help me not to compare my life to anyone elses, but to find my identity in You. Help me to be thankful for the difficult people in my life. Help me to love them more. I ask Lord, that you would increase righteousness, holiness, forgiveness, mercy and love in our relationships. Give us courage to get on our knees together, that we might experience a new depth in our relationship with one another and you because of this gift you have taught us and given us in prayer. Thank you that you allow us to intercede for those

we love. We are grateful for that privilege. These things we pray for the sake of Christ's death for us. Let us not make lightly the sacrifice he paid for us to live in the depth of communion we have freedom to. Amen.

Write out a personal prayer asking God to reveal to you where you could be a better friend: