

# TEN COMMANDMENTS ON HUMAN RELATIONS

## OUTLINE

- I. SPEAK TO PEOPLE
  - II. SMILE AT PEOPLE
  - III. CALL PEOPLE BY NAME
  - IV. BE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL
  - V. BE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN PEOPLE
  - VI. BE GENEROUS WITH PRAISE, AND CAUTIOUS WITH CRITICISM
  - VII. BE CONSIDERATE WITH THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS
  - VIII. BE ALERT TO GIVE SERVICE
  - IX. LEARN TO TRUST PEOPLE
  - X. TO THESE NINE COMMANDMENTS OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, ADD ...
    - A. *A good sense of humor.*
    - B. *A big dose of patience,*
    - C. *A dash of humility.*
- PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT**

If you study these ideas, I think they will give you many good contacts and opportunities or invitations to come back later.

## I. SPEAK TO PEOPLE

There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting. "Good morning! Isn't a beautiful day?" Or, "Hello. Boy, we sure need this rain, don't we?" Be the first person to initiate a conversation. Do not wait for the other person to make the contact. Walk up to a group and shake hands and introduce yourself. Speak to people. Make it your habit, your lifestyle to be the first one to shake a hand and to say something to somebody. Many people are afraid of a stranger. They feel uncomfortable. You can change that. Say something nice. Introduce yourself. And you are no longer a stranger to them.

## II. SMILE AT PEOPLE

Now, why is that important? It is important for your health. The Bible says that, "*A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones*" (Proverbs 17:22).

Scientifically, they have discovered something very interesting. The way our bodies are made is truly marvelous and wonderful. To frown takes seventy-two muscles. It is very difficult. No wonder you are tired all the time. It is not God's design for us. It takes only four muscles to smile. Now, if you were an energy expert, would you choose to use seventy-two, or would you choose to use four? The normal conclusion most people would come to is using four. So, next time, when you catch yourself frowning, just look up and say, "Oh, God! I am misusing my body again." You are going to be old many years before your time. People are nice beings. They are the top of God's Creation. Enjoy them and make them enjoy their surroundings.



## III. CALL PEOPLE BY NAME

So, make sure when you go to visit churches that you write down lots of names. The sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of his own name. Everybody enjoys hearing his own name. You just mention a name, and several people in an audience who have that name--they look up. And it is so much nicer when you go back a second time to a church and you can use their name instead of saying, "Hey, you! Yeah, you! Last time we met, didn't we? Or is this somebody else with the same face?" When you go there the second time, make sure you use their names. It is easy to do. You make a list in your notebook, and when you are riding the bus over the

next time, you open your notebook for that church and you think about these names. Then when you come to the church, and you know ten names, people will be honored, and will ask, "How do you know my name?" "Well, praise God! He helps us, and if you study the Bible, wonderful things will happen for you, too."

## **IV. BE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL**

When you are going along with somebody to their home, insist on carrying their bags or something like that. The Bible suggests that if you would like to have friends, be friendly. You should be the initiator. You are the model. And you are going to show to all the people around what a Biblical education does in a Christian's life.



## **V. BE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN PEOPLE**

When I ride with my dad in the car, all he sees are wheat and grain and plants, "Oh! Look at that, look at that, look at that!", because he is a farmer. My father-in-law is an electrical engineer. When you ride with him in the car, he says, "Oh! Did you see that pole? Did you see that pole? Did you see that pole? Look at that wire!" because he is an electrical engineer.

You must learn to be genuinely interested in people. You can like almost anybody if you try. Almost everybody has something lovable about them. Almost everybody has something good about them. If you cannot think of something right away, you can focus on their clothes. "You have a nice dress on", or "You have such a nice manner." Just think of something that is positive and encouraging.

## **VI. BE GENEROUS WITH PRAISE, AND CAUTIOUS WITH CRITICISM**

Everybody enjoys it when they are complimented. A compliment stimulates something in us to do it again, to try it again, to do it better. A criticism stimulates in us the feeling of, "Uhhh. That is not my thing. I cannot do this. Why try? I am no good at it. I cannot do anything. I am simply no good." Be a positive influence in people's lives.

## **VII. BE CONSIDERATE WITH THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS**

People have feelings and opinions about things; things they do, their clothes, or the way they live. There are usually three sides to a controversy: There is your side, there is the other fellow's side, and there is the right one. There is yours, and there is his. You do not quite agree. But, there is also another one. Because we see it from one angle, and the other one sees it from another angle, and usually there is another element that is perhaps more true than either one of us see. So you need to learn to say, "I understand how you feel." You did not say, "I agree with you." You said, "I understand how you feel." Or you may say, "Well, that is maybe one possibility." You need to learn to be considerate of other people's feelings.

## **VIII. BE ALERT TO GIVE SERVICE**

What counts most in life is what we do for others. What we do for others that is really what counts. Whether it is a kind word, or whether it is help. Or whether it is training. And you should be prepared, looking for it all the time. How can I help somebody? What can I do for someone else? It builds a beautiful reputation for you.

## IX. LEARN TO TRUST PEOPLE

Trust builds lasting relationships. It is a very important element in your ministry. To believe in people. To believe that they want to change. To believe that they want to do something for Jesus. Faith is one of the three greatest elements the Bible tells us. You will find that many times people respond exactly as you believe, or as you trust in them.

## X. TO THESE NINE COMMANDMENTS OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, ADD ...

### A. A good sense of humor

In our family, it is my wife that has the good sense of humor.

But I am just glad I married her, or I would not have any humor, maybe.

### B. A big dose of patience

### C. A dash of humility

If you show humor, patience and humility you will be rewarded many fold. Humor, patience, and humility. They make life a lot lighter and easier. They help to create contentment. One of the things the Bible definitely commands believers is to be content.

Well, these are Ten Commandments of human relationships, and if you practice them, they will be sure to help you gain many friends, and be a leader that is really appreciated.

REMEMBER the New Life motto: "God's purpose in our lives is to make other people successful."

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

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## *Practical assignment*

Completed

- Smile at five people you know and five strangers every day. ☐
- Initiate a conversation with a stranger twice a week, every week this month. (Perhaps pray with or for them) ☐
- Share the principles in this lecture with your team, students, or preacher boys. ☐