

LOVING PEOPLE GOD LOVES

Hebrews 13:1-3, p. 976

- I. MAINTAIN LOVING RELATIONSHIPS WITH BELIEVERS YOU'VE KNOWN A LONG TIME (HEBREWS 13:1).
 - A. Realize you are spiritually united to every Christian (Philippians 2:1-2; Ephesians 4:3).
 - B. Do not put down others with words, which grieves God, but instead build up others (Ephesians 4:29-30).

Guidance for difficult relationships

 1. Assume the best in others, not the worst (1 Corinthians 13:7; Matthew 7:1-3).
 2. Listen well, self-controlled, then communicate directly but gently (James 1:19; Ephesians 4:15).
 3. Refuse to gossip – sharing negative info or opinions (Proverbs 16:28; 19:8; 20:19; 26:20 etc.).
 4. Forgive and apologize without any expectations (Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 5:24; James 5:16).
- II. REACH OUT TO LOVE PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW WELL (HEBREWS 13:2).
 - A. Show hospitality to strangers (2a).
 - Dare to open your home in a closed home culture.
 - B. You don't know how valuable reaching out to someone new can be unless you do it (2b; Genesis 18).
- III. BE SENSITIVE TO LOVE THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING (HEBREWS 13:3).
 - A. Show love to those persecuted unjustly for their faith (3a).

- B. Show love for anyone suffering as if it was you who were suffering (3b).