

Micah 2:13 (AMP)

“The breaker [the Messiah, who opens the way] shall go up before them [liberating them]. They will break out, pass through the gate and go out; so their King goes on before them, the Lord at their head.”

Breakthrough in Relationship Challenges

Proverbs 10:12 (AMP)

“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers and overwhelms all transgressions [forgiving and overlooking another's faults].”

Relationships come with challenges. Married couples, dating couples, friendships, work relationships, and family relationships all face difficulties. We have challenges with our employees, bosses, parents, grandparents, and siblings.

They say the only relationship without challenges is with a pet, as dogs and cats offer unconditional love. However, even pets like Faith Daisy Roses' cat can have relationship issues!

Every relationship faces challenges. Let's explore some relationship struggles that can either bless and heal or destroy and divide.

1. Hatred Stirs Up, but Love Covers

Hatred is defined as extreme dislike, ill will, or resentment. Love, however, covers. Imagine someone engulfed in flames, and the fire represents hatred. Love is a blanket that smothers the flames, putting out the fire and saving them.

At times, we may feel that others don't deserve love and grace. But if we think that way, God could say the same about us.

How often do we argue with our spouses, parents, coworkers, or fellow church members? Hatred divides and is a tool of the enemy to destroy marriages, businesses, families, and churches.

I once harbored hatred toward the man who killed my son. But my hate did nothing to him. Instead, it consumed me, drawing me into darkness and affecting my other relationships.

Harboring negative, ungodly emotions makes us sick in mind, heart, and spirit. These feelings act like cancer, eating away at love, passion, and compassion.

2. Put on a Heart of...

Colossians 3:12 (AMP)

“So, as God's own chosen people, who are holy [set apart, sanctified for His purpose] and well-beloved [by God Himself], put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience [which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper].”

LOVE IN ACTION : GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR RELATIONSHIPS

We must constantly remember who we are: God's chosen people, set apart for His purpose. There is no excuse for mistreating each other. How would Jesus act? How would He treat others? How would He respond to an offense?

We must choose to put on His heart.

- **Compassion:** A deep sorrow or pity for another's suffering, with a desire to ease it.
 - **Kindness:** A genuine desire to do good and bring happiness to others.
 - **Humility:** Freedom from pride or arrogance.
 - **Gentleness:** A soft heart toward people, though not a doormat.
 - **Patience:** Endurance through pain, trials, and opposition with self-control.
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3. Forgiveness

Colossians 3:13 (AMP)

"Bearing graciously with one another, and willingly forgiving each other if one has a cause for complaint against another; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so should you forgive."

Forgiveness is not a request; it is a command. Jesus said if we refuse to forgive, God cannot forgive us. Forgiveness releases and frees us.

Quote: "When you forgive, you heal. When you let go, you grow."

4. Blanketed Love

Colossians 3:14 (AMP)

"Beyond all these things put on and wrap yourselves in [unselfish] love, which is the perfect bond of unity [for everything is bound together in agreement when each one seeks the best for others]."

Love is described as a wrap or blanket that covers us. All that we have learned should be wrapped in unselfish love. This love creates unity when we seek the best for others.

Selfishness pulls the blanket off and exposes vulnerabilities instead of covering them.

Albert Einstein said, "Love is a better master than duty."

God is love, and if He lives in us, so should His love.

5. Peace and Thankfulness

LOVE IN ACTION : GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR RELATIONSHIPS

Colossians 3:15 (AMP)

“Let the peace of Christ [the inner calm of one who walks daily with Him] be the controlling factor in your hearts [deciding and settling questions that arise]. To this peace indeed you were called as members in one body [of believers]. And be thankful [to God always].”

The peace of Christ is the inner calm of one who walks daily with Him. Many are stressed, frustrated, and divisive because they lack this peace.

Walking with the Lord gives us a peace that controls our hearts, guiding our actions and reactions.

We are called to peace as one body. Be thankful to God always.