

## Relationships

**Proverbs 16:7-When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.** (KJV)

The personal relationships we develop in life reflect our relationship with God. The extent we love God is manifested in our personal relationships with others. The Holy Scriptures give guidance and contain valuable wisdom for relationships. Believers desiring to have relationships pleasing to the Lord will heed the wisdom. The soul's hunger motivates a person to look to the Holy Scriptures for guidance. Personal relationships can be very complicating and are not all without difficulty. To have a peaceful heart and mind on a daily basis requires peace with the Lord. The contents of the heart and mind affect daily demeanor and personal behavior. Vigilance is necessary to guard against evil thoughts and repel them immediately.

**Proverbs 24:17-Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:** (KJV)

Worldly life is filled with complex relationships some of which can be difficult. Christians have a responsibility to be loving and forgiving in daily relationships. Finding joy in the hardships of others is not consistent with Christian ethics. Believers have a responsibility to cleanse the heart and mind of evil thoughts. Prayers for the benefit of others including those considered enemies is proper. Let us learn the practice of love and forgiveness from the Lord God and the saints. With the Lord's help we can begin to improve in our acts of love and forgiveness. Personal improvement is always possible to become more loving and forgiving. Prayers for better relationships overcomes present barriers in the mind and heart.

**Proverbs 25:21-If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:** (KJV)

Repentance is the necessary first step in seeking to improve our daily relationships. The desire to become more conforming to the ways of Christ makes a difference. We find guidance, inspiration and example in the life and teachings of the Lord. The saints and martyrs demonstrate love towards others that were harmful to them. God's Holy Church is where we learn the lesson for better personal relationships. Forgiveness is a dominant theme in the Christian life through all the days of life. Forgiveness in relationships is essential in repairing any hurt that has occurred. Charitable actions in tense relationships help to reduce the friction taking place. Apostle Paul is clear in the Epistle to the Corinthians that love never fails. (1Cor. 13:8)--

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