

**Key Objective:**

Everything in life hinges on relationships. Everything God gets to you he does so through a relationship. Realising the importance of relationship and becoming skilled at handling them is essential to a successful life.

**Bible Talk:**

Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”

- **Matthew 22:37-39**

- Both commands are relational
- The primary strategy of heaven is relationship
- The primary strategy of the enemy is division amongst people at every level
- Vulnerability invites others to be vulnerable with us
- We are built for community

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**Three Stages of Relationship:** *Veneer, Disillusion and Reality*

- **Veneer** - First we only see the good, surface things
- **Disillusion** - Then we see people's humanity and have the potential to be disappointed.
- **Reality** - If we survive disillusionment, we can then see reality and accept people for who they really are.

**Practical Steps:**

**1. Prayerfully Evaluate**

Prayerfully Evaluate your view of relationship and to see people as God sees them.

- A great prayer to pray is, ‘Lord help me see people as you see them and to feel about them what you feel.’

**2. Repair**

Are there any relationships that need healing?

- Say sorry, ask for forgiveness
- Write a letter?

**3. Learn**

Learn yourself, learn others.

- By reflection, journaling, asking others what they see in you
- Takes time - Listen, be interested in them

