



## HOW DOES GOD WANT ME TO TREAT PEOPLE?

### STEP #1: WITH LOVE

1. **Definition:** Seeking the other person's highest good, even though it may cost you a great deal.
2. **Greek words for love:** Eros, thelo, philo, and agape.
3. **Love's perfect model:** Jesus Christ (**Romans 5:6-8**).
4. **Whom should we love:** Fellow Christians, enemies, whomever we encounter (aka our neighbors) (**Luke 6:27-38; 10:25-37**).
5. **Attributes of love:** Endurance, patience, kindness, not jealous, not conceited, not arrogant, not rude, not self-seeking, not resentful, rejoices when truth prevails (**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**).
6. **Laws of Use and Reciprocity:** Love follows God's *Law of Use* and *Law of Reciprocity*

### WHAT CAN MAKE A PERSON CAPABLE OF AGAPE LOVE? (LUKE 12:22-34; ROMANS 12:2)

### STEP #2: WITH FORGIVENESS

1. Bitterness blocks God's forgiveness (**Matthew 6:14-15**) *RECIPROCITY*.
2. Criticism leads to us being criticized (**Matthew 7:1-2**) *RECIPROCITY*.
3. How to forgive someone you really don't want to forgive.
  - A. Take your grief to Jesus - Tell Him how you feel.
  - B. Turn from feelings to facts - Your self-worth doesn't rest on another person's response to you.
  - C. Ask God for the strength to forgive - Although your desires have not been met and your pride bruised, **your real needs are intact**.
  - D. Discuss the issue with a close friend (**Matthew 18:15-17**).
  - E. Focus on Jesus' forgiveness of your many shortcomings.

### WHAT IS THE MAIN OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF FORGIVING THOSE WHO HAVE WRONGED US?

### STEP #3: WITH HUMILITY

1. Show genuine interest in other's needs, feelings, and opinions.
2. Turn away from striving to be Numero Uno.



3. Do not be preoccupied with yourself and recognize your own depravity.
4. Be driven by knowing the truth that God values you (**Psalm 139:15-18**). Therefore, you don't need to prove yourself to others (**Romans 8:31**).
5. Keep your focus on Eternity (**Isaiah 57:15**).

## **HOW CAN I BE A GOOD FRIEND TO OTHER PEOPLE?**

### **STEP #1: BE VULNERABLE**

1. Being vulnerable is a risky venture, for we may be betrayed and belittled if we let our mask of competence drop. Take the risk!
2. You cannot be sensitive to another's needs if you shun vulnerability.
3. Jesus was not afraid of making Himself vulnerable, and He always had compassion.
4. The difference between selfishness, sympathetic, empathetic, and compassionate.

### **STEP #2: BE AVAILABLE, BE LOYAL, BE HONEST, BE SELFLESS**

1. A friend loves at all times (**Proverbs 17:17**).
2. A friend sticks closer than a brother (**Proverbs 18:24**).
3. A friend is faithful and loyal (**Proverbs 27:6**).
4. Iron sharpens iron (**Proverbs 27:17**).

**STEP #3: DON'T EXPECT PERFECTION** - After all, we all fall short of perfection (**Romans 3:23a**).

**STEP #4: SHARE BIBLICAL TRUTH** - If a friend is faltering, gently show him God's standards without criticism (**Matthew 7:1; Proverbs 15:1**).

### **STEP #5: ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BE ACCOUNTABLE**

1. Be accountable to Jesus.
2. Be accountable to others that you have a responsible relationship with.