

December/January usher in the great holiday celebration season. Many of us will interact with many people during this time and many of us will be looking forward to the intimate sharing the season lends itself to. It's a good time to examine how we are doing in these relationships.

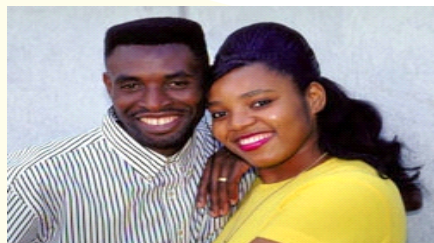
Relationship Building

By *Selectedly Single Newsletter* Editor Andrea Hughes, counselor, speaker

Relationships take a lot of work and nurturing. There is no shortage of persons and "experts" to help us improve on our relationships. From our local Audrey Chapman on WHUR to national Dr. Laura and our latest - Dr. Phil, we don't have any reason not to have great relationships. But do we? Dr. Phil warns us about some of the things that we do that can sabotage a relationship: scorekeeping, fault-finding, thinking it's our way or the highway, turning into an attack dog when we get into an argument, passive warmongering - insidious and underhanded attacking, resorting to "smoke and mirrors" instead of surfacing real issues, being unforgiving, insatiable neediness, becoming too comfortable - failing to meet our responsibilities in a relationship and giving up instead of confronting problems in a relationship. Audrey warns us about acting too entitled and Rev. Wanda Byrum cautions us about getting so entangled in the sheets that we aren't able to have a healthy wholesome relationship.

All this is great advice but no relationship works without investing in the two most important relationships under the sun: the relationship with Jehovah, Yahweh, God, through the person of His son Jesus, the Christ, and yourself. The two great commandments: loving the Lord they God with all thy heart, soul and mind and loving you neighbor as yourself, revolve around these two intimate relationships.

During this great holiday season is a marvelous time to either *spend more time* with the one promises "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Heb 13:5 or *to discover* just who is the one Jeremiah, the prophet speaks of when he says, "You show loving kindness to thousands... Jer. 32:18, whom the king David declared confidently as the one who "delivered me out of the paw of the lion.. the bear, He will deliver me..." I Kings 17:37. Will you take time to discover what God is saying to you through His goodness today and make this nurturing, special relationship the basis for fulfillment in your life and other relationships? Why not have the best of relationships? The great "I am" says **you are worth it.** John 15:13-16.



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