## **Benefits Of Having A Firm Identity In Christ in Our Relationships**

- 1. We can enter into godly relationships without fear because we fear God more than other sinful people, and fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, Prov. 9:10 and perfect love casts out fear, 1 John 3:18.
- 2. We can enter into godly relationships knowing that Christ is our constant and perfect companion, Deut. 31:6.
- 3. We can enter into godly relationships knowing that we can ask for wisdom whenever we need it, James 1:5-8.
- 4. We can enter into godly relationships knowing that we can love others from a place of security in Christ and not from a place of neediness, 1 Pet. 5:10.
- 5. We can enter into godly relationships without attempting to control others for our needs or safety because we're already safe in Christ and He will give discernment, Jude 1:1, Prov. 10:13a.
- 6. We can enter into godly relationships because we have no need to manipulate or use others for our needs, comfort or desires, 2 Cor. 11:19-20.
- 7. We can enter into godly relationships because we are so dearly loved by Christ, we can freely love others without expecting anything in return, Eph. 5:1.
- 8. When we enter into godly relationships we can engage with others from a place of inner confidence in Christ and not from needing their approval, Gal. 1:10.
- 9. We can enter into godly relationships because we know that all people sin and so we don't expect any other sinner to meet our needs perfectly, only Christ does that, 2 Pet. 1:3.
- 10. We can enter into godly relationships since we have placed our trust in Christ and we can build trust with others based on their track record of trustworthiness, Prov. 22:3a.
- 11. We can enter into godly relationships because we are complete in Christ, so we can keep our promises (knowing that we plan to keep them) and when we're unable to do so we can let others know, with no guilt, shame or fear of their disapproval, Col. 1:28, Prov. 29:25.
- 12. We can enter into godly relationships since the love of Christ controls us and we don't need nor do we desire to control others, 2 Cor. 5:14, Phil. 2:3.
- 13. We can enter into godly relationships since we know that conflicts are in evitable among sinful people, so we welcome conflicts as opportunities to grow in our relationship skills, so that Christ is glorified, Matt. 5:23-24, James 4:1-3.

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- 14. We can enter into godly relationships because we can check in with Christ throughout the day, we can bring our questions to Him, for example: "What do you think about..." or "What should I do?" John 17:26, James 1:5-8.
- 15. We can enter into godly relationships because Christ has promised to grant us wisdom without reproach when we ask without doubt James, 1:5-8.
- 16. We can enter into godly relationships because we are more self-aware, so when we notice we're becoming fearful, we can bring our fears to Christ and we can gladly glory in our weakness, Prov. 4:23, 2 Cor. 12:7-10.
- 17. We can enter into godly relationships because we are self-aware enough to know what we can and cannot do so we set appropriate boundaries after checking with Christ, for example: Are we Jesus pleasing or people pleasing? Prov. 4:23, 2 Cor. 11:19-20.
- 18. We can enter into godly relationships because we desire to please God above ourselves, 2 Cor. 5:9.
- 19. We can enter into godly relationships because we desire to learn God's way to manage relationships, Prov. 9:7-9.
- 20. We can enter into godly relationships because we know that nothing is perfect in life, so we have realistic expectations, Rom. 3:23.
- 21. We can enter into godly relationships because we can accept others where they are, if they are non-believers and not demand that they be other than where they are and pray for them (but not marry them), and if they are believers, accept that they are growing towards Christ-likeness, just like me, so we can give and receive grace, Rom 15:7, 2 Pet. 3:18.
- 22. We can enter into godly relationships and can be honest about our feelings because we only fear God's opinion of us, and we do not fear any other sinful person's opinion of us, Eph. 4:15.
- 23. We can enter into godly relationships because we know that we are able to forgive and release any anger or bitterness towards those who hurt us is possible through the power of Christ in us, the same power that raised Him from the dead, Rom. 8:11.
- 24. We can grow in an attitude of willingness to forgive others because we have been so forgiven and we trust that God will take his revenge on those who hurt us, Rom. 12:19.