

## A RELATIONAL MODEL: 3 LEVELS OF RELATIONSHIPS

Teaching this model: a) Understand the primacy of love (1 Tim. 1:5; 1 Cor. 13:2); b) God's part versus our part in learning and practicing it (1 Pet. 1:22 - Philadelphia vs. Agape); c) where love requires deliberate action (\*1 Corinthians 16:14; 1 Jn. 3:17); d) Love is rooted in God and His Word, our source for understanding love (\*1 Jn. 4:16); e) Love defines Christian ethics (\*Gal. 5:14; Rom. 13:10; Matt. 7:12, where Jesus reverses the classic Hillel formulation) and spiritual life (\*1 Jn. 4:12; \*1 Jn. 4:20).

Basic Qualities of Love (from 1 Cor. 13): Gracious, Emotional, Disciplining, Sacrificial. The Relational Model below is a convenient way to talk about applying these basic qualities to relationships. Along the side are **AREAS OF INVESTMENT**, and along the top are **LEVELS OF INVESTMENT**. The basic point of this model is to show how relationships require investment.

	Casual	Close	Intimate
C.E.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occasional contact. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Fun" times.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Planned</u> time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Have to" see <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Quality</u> time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shared <u>Goals</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extensive time <u>commitment</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Availability</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shared worlds
P.I.W.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A General knowledge interests, background... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>See Potential</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>You</u> open up.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Promote</u> potential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Pointed</u> questions... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Share your life <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loyalty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Completely</u> Open <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committed to their <u>growth</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affirmation <u>and</u> Confrontation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Two-way</u> relat. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accountability
Emotions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Real warmth, interest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prioritize <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thankfulness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dependency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affection often <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Verbal, spontaneous expressions

**How to apply this model:** #1) Identify problem areas; #2) Appropriate God's Power in these areas; #3) Deepen a relationship by bringing it into the next level,