# 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.

**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,