BRIDGE BUILDING PRINCIPLES

‘So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.’ Philippians 2:1-4 (ESV)

1. LEARN TO SEEK OTHER PEOPLE’S WELFARE OR INTEREST

‘Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.’ Philippians 2:3-4 (ESV)

Message – ‘Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage.’

2. LEARN TO LOVE AS GOD LOVED: LOVE OTHERS IN SPITE OF THEIR WEAKNESSES

‘But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.’ Romans 5:8 (ESV)

‘But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ –by grace you have been saved.’ Ephesians 2:4-5 (ESV)

‘Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us, that we should be called the sons of God….’ I John 3:1 (KJV)

‘Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another...’ I John 4:11 (KJV)

‘Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.’ Romans 12:21 (ESV)

3. ENCOURAGE STRONG POINTS IN OTHERS...

❖ Give Honor To Whom Honor Is Due Romans 13:7
❖ Use Words That Edify And Minister God’s Grace Ephesians 4:29
❖ Recognize That God Creates Each Person Uniquely
❖ Christ Commended The Good Points In People Matthew 16:16-18
4. BE SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

Philippians 2:19-21
I Corinthians 11:28-29
I Thessalonians 2:7-9

*BE A ‘LIFTER UP’ OF OTHERS... NOT A ‘DOWNER’!!*

5. BE A LISTENER...

‘He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, is a folly and a shame unto him.’
Proverbs 18:13

6. BE PATIENT

‘Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient of spirit is better than the proud in spirit.’ Ecclesiastes 7:8 (KJV)


‘The fruit of the spirit is love, joy peace, longsuffering...’ Galatians 5:22 (KJV)

‘Love suffereth long’ I Corinthians 13:4 (KVJ)

7. GIVE SOME ASSISTANCE... BUT NOT TOO MUCH

‘Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.’ Galatians 6:2 (KJV)

‘For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.’ Galatians 6:3-4 (KJV)

8. EXPRESS GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

‘I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.’ Philippians 1:3

‘We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.’ Colossians 1:3

‘We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.’ I Thessalonians 1:2-3
9. ADMIT YOU HAVE FEET OF CLAY

“For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not, but what I hate, that do I.”
Romans 7:15

“Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (ESV)

10. WHEN DEALING WITH ANOTHER’S PROBLEMS... TO BUILD BRIDGES... BE SURE TO USE THE FOUR RULES OF COMMUNICATION – Ephesians 4:25-32

Always Ask Yourself:

- Should Love Hide It?  Is It A Biblical Problem?
  ‘And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves; for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.’ 1 Peter 4:8 (KJV)
- Are My Facts Right?  Do I Really Know What I’m Talking About?
- Is My Timing Right
  ‘A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!’ Proverbs 15:23
- Is My Attitude Right?  Am I Really Trying To Help?
- Are My Words Loving?
- Have I Asked God For Help?

11. USE LOVING, GRACIOUS WORDS

‘the Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary.’ Isaiah 50:4 (KJV)

‘Let no corrupt communication proceed out of thy mouth.’ Ephesians 4:29 (KJV)

12. CHOOSE YOUR WORDS WELL...  GIVE THE TRUTH ADVISEDLY

‘See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise...’ Ephesians 5:15

‘Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man...’ Colossians 4:6 (KJV)

‘A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.’ Proverbs 25:11 (KJV)
13. BE LOVINGLY HONEST

‘Wherefore, putting away lying, let every man speak truth with his neighbor. For we are members one of another.’ Ephesians 4:25

BUILDING BRIDGES or ERECTING WALLS?