



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Leadership Survival Skills (Proverbs 18:24)

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Human relations training is a popular focus in management workshops, business schools, and counseling sessions. The Holy Scriptures have much more to say about surviving in the culture.

INTRODUCTION

Rule #1: Life in the culture is tough; you cannot make it on your own! Rule #2: Others need your help, your leadership. Many try to survive as somewhat of a loner. They may have rather shallow relationships in the workplace, the community, even the extended family. Perhaps you and I can work on this challenge in the Capitol, in our surroundings! Relationships were the subject of a memorable 1863 poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: **Ships that pass in the night and speak each other in passing; Only a signal shown and a distant voice in the darkness; So on the ocean of life we pass and speak one another, Only a look and a voice; then darkness again and a silence.**¹ Friendships require a time commitment. Women, in general, develop several close friendships with other women. Many men do not have one or two close friends. Solomon chided us in his wisdom teaching.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIPS

*Proverbs 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*²

Developing deep friendships is helpful and rewarding over the years, even over a lifetime. However, your relationship with Almighty God will give you peace for eternity. Writing in Exodus, Chapter three, Moses describes the beginning of his relationship with Yahweh, the personal God. He was tasked with teaching the Ten Commandments, principles for living and building our relationship with God. Jesus summed up mankind's whole moral duty in just two categories.³

YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

Matthew 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:

*'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*⁴

This is hard teaching! Fortunately, Jesus paid our sin debt by His death on the cross, we can accept His pardon and not be judged by our works. We do strive to please God as a child desires to please a loving parent. Perhaps we can start by being accountable to one or more persons that love us?⁵

KEEPING SHARP – MORE THAN SURVIVAL

*Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpens iron and one man sharpens another.*⁶

The culture of today flaunts a lifestyle of personal autonomy with no moral absolutes. We compare this to a nation under anarchy, lawlessness. Accountability is essential to us achieving our goals as a nation and as an individual. A person of faith lives in a hostile environment where the culture tempts you, and the forces of evil seek to corrupt you.⁶ **"Be serious! Be alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour"** (1 Peter 5:8). Jesus provided encouragement for His followers: **"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life"** (John 10:10).

A PRAYER

Father God, help me to foster deep friendships with others, especially those who will strengthen my resolve to keep the faith and finish well. Thank You for placing spiritual hedges around me, protecting me from the forces seeking to destroy my rich and satisfying life. Help me to thrive and to finish well. I ask this in the Name of Your Son. Amen.

¹ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Tales of a Wayside Inn. Part iii. The Theologian's Tale: Elizabeth. iv. Bartlett's Familiar Quotations. (Little, Brown & Co.) 2002. p467.

² The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. (Crossway Bibles) 2001.

³ John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible (Thomas Nelson Inc.) 2006 p1403.

⁴ The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica, Inc.) 1984.

⁵ The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. (Crossway Bibles) 2001.

⁶ Lonnie Berger, Every Man A Warrior. Book one. (NavPress). 2011. p22.