

Relational wisdom (RW), in essence, is the ability to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself (Matt. 22:37-39).

- Specifically, relational wisdom is your ability to discern emotions, interests, and abilities in yourself and others, to interpret them in the light of God's Word, and to use these insights to manage your responses and relationships constructively.
- RW is a **"relational operating system"** (like Windows or Mac OS) that impacts every aspect of our lives, including worship, marital intimacy, church unity, and job performance and advancement.
- RW is crucial because life is all about relationship (1 Cor. 1:9; Gen. 2:18; John 13:34-35).
- Relationships can be challenging, however, because they are often fueled by emotions, both positively and negatively (Matt. 14:14; Gen. 37:11, 28).
- The Bible provides a powerfully effective way to deal with relationships and the emotions that fuel them. These truths may be organized into a discipleship paradigm called "relational wisdom."

- Relationships are three dimensional (Eph. 4:30-32): **God, Self, Others**

- Relationships involve two dynamics
Aware – What do I know? (Knowledge)
Engaging – What will I do? (Action)

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another,

as God in Christ forgave you." (Eph. 4:30-32, ESV)



- The gospel provides the motive, pattern and power for relational wisdom (Eph. 4:30-32; 5:1-2; Titus 2:14).

The relational wisdom paradigm was developed by Ken Sande, founder of Peacemaker Ministries and Relational Wisdom 360, and author of *The Peacemaker* and numerous other resources on biblical conflict resolution.

 **relational wisdom360**
going beyond emotional intelligence™

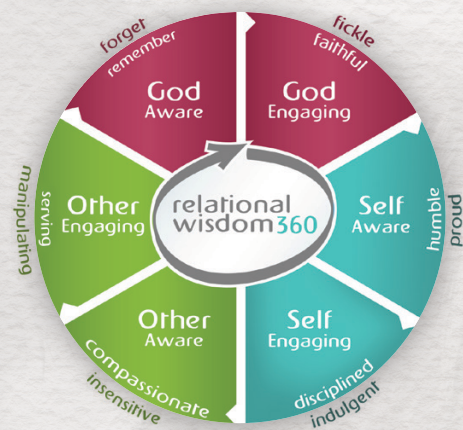


www.rw360.org | Academy.rw360.org | mail@rw360.org
Relational Wisdom 360 | 4460 Laredo Pl, Billings, MT 59106
406-294-6806

"Get wisdom. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you."
PROVERBS 4:7-8

■ Relational wisdom involves six relationship-building and preserving skills or disciplines:

- **God-Awareness** (remember) is the ability to interpret all of life in the light of God’s character, works and promises.¹
- **God-Engagement** (faithfulness) is the ability to trust, obey, and imitate God in a way that pleases and honors him.²
- **Self-Awareness** (humility) is the ability to accurately discern your own emotions, interests, values, strengths and weaknesses.³
- **Self-Engagement** (discipline) is the ability to manage your thoughts, emotions, words and actions so that they advance God’s purposes.⁴
- **Other-Awareness** (compassion) is the ability to understand and empathize with the experiences, emotions and needs of others.⁵
- **Other-Engagement** (service) is the ability to encourage, cooperate, and resolve differences with others in a mutually beneficial way.⁶



■ Relational wisdom is so simple a child can apply it, yet so complex you can spend the rest of your life developing it. You can start growing today by memorizing and practicing four simple acrostics.

Practice The SOG Plan

- S**elf-aware (How am I feeling and acting?)
- O**ther-aware (How are others feeling? How am I affecting them?)
- G**od-aware (Where is God leading me?)

Follow a Trustworthy GPS

- (**G**od **P**ositioning **S**ystem)
- G**lorify **G**od (Trust, obey and worship him)
- P**ursue **G**od (Seek him earnestly)
- S**erve **G**od (Do what pleases him)

READ Yourself Accurately

- R**ecognize your emotions
- E**valuate their source
- A**nticipate the consequences of following them
- D**irect them on a constructive course

SERVE Every Person You Meet

- S**mile (Home, office, church, store, telephone)
- E**xplore and **E**mpathize (Show interest and compassion)
- R**econcile (Be a peacemaker)
- V**alue (Express appreciation and respect)
- E**ncourage (Give heart, inspire, put wind under their wings)

¹ 1 Chron. 16:12 ; Ps. 29:2; Ps. 77:11-12; Ps. 103; Rom. 8:28-39; Eph. 3:14-19; 2 Pet. 1:3-8
² 1 Kings 3:6; Prov. 3:5-6; Matt. 25:21; John 14:15; 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1; Eph. 5:1-2; John 8:29
³ 1 Peter 5:5; Ps. 139:23-24; James 4:1-3; Mark 7:21-23; 2 Tim. 2:22
⁴ Gal. 5:22-23; Matt. 16:24-25; John 8:29; Titus 2:11-12
⁵ Mark 6:34; Luke 10:30-37; 1 Pet. 3:8; Phil. 2:3-4
⁶ Mark 10:42-45; John 12:24-26; 1 Thess. 5:14-15; 1 Pet. 3:8-9

■ Peacemaking is a special application of relational wisdom

Peacemaking is how we draw ourselves and others back inside the circle of relational wisdom (1 Sam. 25; Acts 6:1-7) through confession, correction, forgiveness, negotiation, and reconciliation.

The Slippery Slope of Conflict

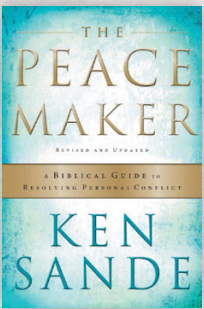
(Luke 22:56-62; Acts 23:1-5; Matt. 5:9)

- Escaping (Fear)
- Attacking (Anger)
- Peacemaking (Love)

Four G’s of Peacemaking

(1 Cor. 10:31; Matt. 7:3-5; Gal. 6:1; Matt. 5:23-24)

- G**lorify God
- G**et the log out of your own eye
- G**ently Restore
- G**o and be reconciled



Seven A’s of Confession

(Matt. 7:3-5; 1 John 1:8-9; Prov. 28:13)

- A**ddress everyone involved (All those whom you affect)
- A**void if, but, and maybe (Make no excuses)
- A**dmit specifically (Both attitudes and actions)
- A**cknowledge the hurt (Express sorrow for hurting someone)
- A**ccept the consequences (Such as making restitution)
- A**lter your behavior (Change your attitudes and actions)
- A**sk for forgiveness

Four Promises of Forgiveness

(Matt. 6:12; 1 Cor. 13:5; Eph. 4:32)

- “I will not dwell on this incident.”
- “I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you.”
- “I will not talk to others about this incident.”
- “I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.”



PAUSE Principle of Negotiation

(Phil. 2:3-4; Matt. 7:12)

- P**repare (pray, get the facts, seek godly counsel, develop options)
- A**ffirm relationships (show genuine concern and respect for others)
- U**nderstand interests (identify others’ concerns, desires, needs, limitations, or fears)
- S**earch for creative solutions (prayerful brainstorming)
- E**valuate options objectively and reasonably (evaluate, don’t argue)



For practical guidance on developing and applying relational wisdom: 1) **visit www.rw360.org**; 2) **subscribe to RW360’s blog**; and 3) **pursue online training at Academy.rw360.org**.

