



relational
wisdom[®]360



Discovering Relational Wisdom[®]3.0

going beyond emotional intelligence[™]

Building better relationships by taking every thought,
emotion, word and action captive to Christ

LESSON 1



Life Is All About Relationships

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart... and love your neighbor as yourself."
Matt. 22:37-39

Relational wisdom (RW) is an "operating system for life"

Just as Windows and Mac OS control every program on your computer, relational wisdom (RW) impacts every aspect of life, not only improving workplace performance and advancement but also enhancing worship, friendships, marriage, parenting, church unity and ministry impact.

What is relational wisdom?

In essence, relational wisdom is the ability to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself... better yet, as Jesus has loved you.

Matt. 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35



Living out
the two great
commandments.

In modern terms, relational wisdom is your ability to discern emotions, interests and abilities in yourself and others, to interpret this information in the light of God's Word, and to use these insights to manage your responses and relationships constructively.

Why is relational wisdom worth pursuing?

Because life is all about relationship.

Gen. 2:18 | 1 Cor. 1:9 | John 3:16; 4:1-42; 13:34-35; 17:20-23

Because relationships are precious gifts that God entrusts to us with the expectation that we will see them as opportunities to show his love and multiply the number of people who will enjoy him forever.

Matt. 25:14-30



Well done,
good and faithful
servant! You have
been faithful with
a few things; I will
put you in charge of
many things.
- Matt. 25:21

Here's a simple example of relational wisdom

Relational wisdom is so simple a child can learn it, yet so intricate and robust you can spend the rest of your life enhancing it. To start this learning process, we'll show you four simple acrostics you can easily memorize and practice in daily life. The first of them is: To be relationally wise in all situations ...

Practice the SOG Plan™

- S Self-Aware:** How am I feeling and acting?
- O Other-Aware:** How are others feeling? How am I affecting them?
- G God-Aware:** Where is God leading me?



SCAN ME

What are the benefits of developing relational wisdom?

Stronger relationships

- Experience, love and enjoy God more fully.
Jer. 29:13 | Matt. 22:37 | John 8:29; 14:21, 23
- Less conflict and more enjoyable, productive and enduring human relationships.
Ruth 1:16-18 | 1 Sam. 20:17 | Prov. 18:24



Get Wisdom...
prize her highly,
and she will exalt
you. - Prov. 4:7-8

Valued influence

- Your example and advice will be more credible and welcomed by others.
Prov. 3:35 | 16:23
- Improved relational skills enhance personal and team performance at work, at church and in other group activities.

Compelling witness

- Noticeable changes in your character and relationships reveal God's transforming power in your life.
2 Cor. 5:17-20
- Love and unity among believers show that we are Jesus' disciples and prove that God loves us and sent his Son to save us.
John 13:34-35; 17:20-23

Why do soft skills outshine hard skills?

When we are working with others, whether in an office or warehouse, on a church committee or nonprofit board, or as a mission team in the field, relational skills are usually more valuable than technical expertise.



Soft skills can either **magnify** or **diminish** the value of our hard skills, as well as those of the people around us. *Prov. 22:11*

Soft skills increase “social capital” in both work and ministry settings

Soft skills bring out the best in people and produce bonds of loyalty, trust and mutual support (aka “social capital”), which yields countless benefits, including improved team creativity and cohesiveness, better balance between work and family life, less conflict, reduced staff and volunteer turnover, higher member and customer satisfaction, and increased productivity, growth and impact.¹



When companies invest in the relational wellness of their workers, returns on investment can range between \$1.50 and \$6.85 for every dollar spent on these types of programs.²



¹ See rw360.org/workplace for over 100 articles on the value of relational skills in business, healthcare, education, ministry, sports and military settings. ² Relational Wellness: Corporate America's Business? (Life Innovations, Inc.)

Can people improve their relational wisdom?

Yes! Unlike your IQ (intelligence quotient), which does not change noticeably after the teen years, your relational wisdom can improve significantly if you are willing to work at it.



We all are being transformed... This comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. - 2 Cor. 3:18

Psychologists who study relational skills attribute our ability to change to the "plasticity" of our minds. Christians attribute it to a transformational process called justification and sanctification. *2 Thess. 2:13*

In fact, God commands and empowers us to grow in relational wisdom as he sanctifies and transforms us into the likeness of Christ. *Rom. 12:2 | 2 Cor. 3:18 | Eph. 4:22-24 | James 1:5 | 2 Pet. 1:3-7*

Don't give in to guilt or regret

As you study relational wisdom, you may think, "Oh, I wish I'd learned these concepts years ago!" Don't let guilt or regret for past deficiencies discourage you.



Because of Jesus, it is never too late to start doing what is right!

Instead, remember that Jesus makes all things new (*2 Cor. 5:17*) and that God delights to bring beauty out of ashes (*Isa. 61:3*). Then follow the Apostle Paul's example by "forgetting what lies behind" and "pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." *Phil. 3:13-14*

Walk with the wise

To accelerate your relational growth, identify several highly relational people and spend as much time as you can with them, learning from their example and benefitting from their encouragement and advice. *Prov. 13:20 | 1 Cor. 11:1 | Phil. 3:17 | 1 Thess. 5:11 | Prov. 19:20*



Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise. - Prov. 13:20