

**If You Love Them Then You Must Debate Them**  
January 2020 Issue “Being Sensitive In Our Relationships”  
*Happy New Year 2020*

As we start out the new year it is always good to make some resolutions that will bring better connections to the people God brings in our lives. When I can plan an appointment or fellowship with a brother for coffee I take time to think about all the ways I can relate to his opinions and preferences and try not to react with the intention to fix or change his mind.

Here are 4 things to be aware of:

1. Do they have a good grip on their identity in the Lord ? Are they aware of their gifts and moving in their gifts? Many times we don't see how different God has made us and when we can't appreciate the different gifts there is a frustration.
2. Is there irreparable damage or a” thorn in the flesh” that you can be sensitive to. Praying for them will help you understand how to communicate better. If we know of a weakness or the temptations of another we will desire to avoid conflict but try to encourage them.
3. What maturity level are they at in the Lord. Can you match the dialogue for them with that maturity. It is important to discern a person's ability to comprehend our interaction properly. Looking for the right relationship that God wants us to have will bring about strength and closeness.
4. Have a goal of building their faith first. Without meaningless flattery we can always point them to countless successes in their past or people they have had confidence in.

Proverbs 16:24 “Kind words are like honey  
sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.”

This can be a year of peace and understanding. You can be the one that prevents division and alienation. When God's love is in place we will be confident to dialogue. It is always about growing and learning so don't worry about making mistakes just remember His grace and liberty will guide you.