

Think of your investment in friendship as a relational bank account. Both friends have to put in relational currency. At first, one person may put in more than the other: perhaps a 60/40, 70/30, or even an 80/20 ratio. But there is no keeping score. 1 Corinthians 13 says:

Love doesn't keep a list of hurts or insults.

No records! And yet there's always money in the bank. How does that happen? It seems like sloppy bookkeeping. Here's how: even though there's no record, both friends trust one another to contribute to the relationship, and they do. Insufficient funds mean the friendship is over. Account closed!

❖ Questions for Chapter 7

1. This chapter details the stages of relational development. If you were to count them, how many of your current relationships fall into each of these stages?

<i>Buddies</i>	_____
<i>Self-Disclosure</i>	_____
<i>Reciprocity</i>	_____
<i>Intimacy/Stickness</i>	_____
<i>Best Friends</i>	_____
<i>Friends for Life</i>	_____

2. Are you satisfied with the number of relationships you have in these stages? What might you do to be more satisfied?
3. If you have few or no relationships at the deeper levels, what is hindering you?
4. Which of the keys to relationship development mentioned in this chapter do you need to improve upon (*self-disclosure; emotional connection; unconditional support; acceptance, loyalty, and trust; bonding and commitment; supportiveness; interaction; honesty coupled with a positive attitude; keeping no record of wrongs*)? How might you get started to make improvements?