

## 2. HOW DO YOU GET IT?

FORMULA:

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = CREDIBILITY

re-la-tion-ship (n) = The connection between two or more people or groups and their involvement with each other, especially as regards how they behave and feel toward each other and communicate or cooperate with one another.

re-li-a-bil-i-ty (n) = The quality of being dependable or reliable. Being able to be trusted to do what is expected or has been promised.

*Proverbs 3: 3 & 4 –<sup>3</sup> Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.*

***Bind them around your neck  
Write them on the tablet of your heart***

*4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.*

*1 Timothy 3: 1 – 10 –<sup>1</sup> This is a trustworthy saying: “If someone aspires to be an elder, he desires an honorable position.”<sup>2</sup> So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must be hospitable, and he must be able to teach.<sup>3</sup> He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money.<sup>4</sup> He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him.<sup>5</sup> For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God’s church?*

*<sup>6</sup> An elder must not be a new believer . . .<sup>7</sup> Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil’s trap.*

*<sup>8</sup> In the same way, deacons must be well respected and have integrity. They must not be heavy drinkers or dishonest with money.<sup>9</sup> They must be committed to the mystery of the faith now revealed and must live with a clear conscience.<sup>10</sup> Before they are appointed as deacons, let them be tested. If they pass the test, then let them serve . . .*

**Tested** = documentation

*Revelation 2:2 – I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.*

**POINT:** It takes **time** to judge a person’s character and earn credibility.

## 3. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

\* It is impossible to build a meaningful relationship if we lack credibility.

\* Credibility is the thing that, in the words of the Message, that will “**refute the prejudices**” of a critical, unbelieving world.

# TIMESONLINE

## As an atheist, I truly believe Africa needs God

By Matthew Parris

December 27, 2008

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/matthew\\_parris/article5400568.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/matthew_parris/article5400568.ece)

Two Scriptures to build your life around:

*Proverbs 3: 3 & 4 –<sup>3</sup> Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.<sup>4</sup> Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. (NIV)*

*1 Peter 2:12 – Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they’ll be won over to God’s side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives. (The Message)*



SCC Message by John Aldax, February 7, 2010

Part 3

## CREDIBILITY

### ***If there is a God— and it all belongs to Him — HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?***

#### Turning Points in God's Story

Exodus 19 – Hebrews at Sinai – birth of the nation Israel

Acts 2 – Pentecost – birth of the Church

Acts 16 – Paul turns west and enters Europe

*1 Peter 2:9 & 10 – <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

*<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (NIV)*

*Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives. (The Message)*

### **THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT CREDIBILITY:**

#### 1. WHAT IS IT?

cred·i·bil·i·ty (n) = The quality of being believable or trustworthy.

Syn: credibleness & believability.