

RELATIONSHIPS

There is a principle that applies to every beautiful and natural relationship between any two entities, no exceptions. For example, an entity can be between a person and another person, an animal, an institution and even God.

I believe that the most natural thing in the world is to have relationships of all kinds. However, the desirable relationships are those that are absolutely perfect, just the way they are, without working on them, without having to go to counseling, without burning up mental energy fretting over them. When thinking about them, they should bring joy to our hearts, not fear. When they end, not if they end, because all relationships end sooner or later except the one with God, they're should be nothing except wonderful memories. We all have these types of relationships and when we do they always happen naturally...never because we have "worked" on them. The relationships that we have "worked" on, we are typically relieved when they are over and don't ever want to do that again. Yet there is one type that we always do try again...the Cinderella fairytale relationship. It has been imbedded into our fundamental existences and it should be a crime. This fairytale that we sell, particularly to our little girls in our society, destroys more hearts, causes more pain and domestic violence and is the root of most of society's insanity. Human shortcomings can apply to an individual and they can apply to a society of individuals as well. We call this a "culture".

We have evolved into a culture that has been selling a lie to our children for so many generations that we can hardly trace it back to its origins. This lie is along the lines of having to find that "significant relationship", Prince Charming, my soul mate, etc. I'm not saying this never happens. I'm saying that we don't teach this as a hope and a dream, we actually teach it as an expectation. So now we set out to try to make it happen and when we fail, we have people commit suicide and homicide in the extreme cases, but in the majority of the cases we simply rob ourselves of the beautiful natural relationships that our Creator had in store for us. We get so depressed and overwhelmed in emotion when it doesn't pan out the way we dream it will or we have no patience to let it happen naturally that we settle for less and become discontent with the relationship that we get and/or discontent with not being in one at all. My attempts at making it happen usually chase away the opportunities. When they do happen, we put so much expectation on the other person we almost always destroy any chances of the relationship working. We are the maker of our own problems.

All pain has purpose. Pain is designed to cause the human being to stop doing something or to do something different. Stop trying to make these relationships happen. We are our own worst enemies.

It is only the relationships that "we" desire and that "we" try to make happen that are difficult because we're going against nature...in other words, they're not happening naturally. It should be obvious when a relationship is happening naturally. If it's not happening naturally, then I am managing my own life. The principle does not say: *We cannot manage our own lives, except when it comes to the significant relationship, or except when it comes to employment opportunities.*

I also believe in the principle that *God will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves*. In other words, there are some things that are required of me in relationships. First there is the negotiation to see if we have a common goal. Our lives are full of negotiating relationships. We do this when dating, when job hunting, when looking for people to help in AA or anywhere else, we even do this with strangers at intersections while we're driving. Once we're in the relationship, there is consistent communication. The most effective form of communication is our consistent actions. Words are cheap. Our consistent actions will speak louder than our words.

All spiritual things are in the moment. All beautiful or spiritual relationships are also in the moment...they do not exist in yesterday and they do not exist in tomorrow.

In summary, in any given moment, in a beautiful, natural relationship, there needs to be (1) a common goal and (2) consistent honest communication that is accomplished entirely by my consistent actions.

Our Creator has designed us to serve Him by serving others. In order to be in harmony with the Creation, I have to have a primary purpose adopted of attempting to nudge my brothers and sisters into the palm of God's hand by showing them how to do the same for someone else...if I want to be spiritually healthy. We put man-made titles on our relationship such as boyfriend/girlfriend, husband/wife, employer/employee, son/daughter, father/mother, etc. These titles are man-made and bring man-made expectation. This is where our problems begin.

We can enjoy relationships of all sorts, provided we do not forget our primary purpose. Our primary purpose does not change because of a man-made title. With practice, over the years, I have learned to ask myself one question in negotiating any relationship...is this enhancing my spiritual condition or at the very least, not distracting me from it? When there is another person involved, I am also responsible to ask myself...will this enhance the other person's spiritual condition or at the very least not distract them from it? If the answer is yes, I will enjoy the relationship. If no, I try to pass. If I'm not sure, then I should make my decisions on the side of "kindness". I'd rather make mistakes on the side of kindness than on the side of neglect. I'm not perfect at this...if I was I would be of no value to God and brothers and sisters. However, I am required to practice these principles in all of my affairs...with no exceptions.