

The Relationship Equation: Rely

Recap: Relationships get better when they're done God's way.

Philippians 2:5: In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Becoming Better Together: A Plan for Growing Together When Life is Pulling You Apart.

How to Avoid Falling in Love with a Jerk –Dr. John Van Epp

FIVE MAJOR BONDS IN EVERY RELATIONSHIP



Overdependence vs. Independence

Colossians 2:8-10: *See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. ⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.*

Genesis 2:18: *The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

To the Dating:

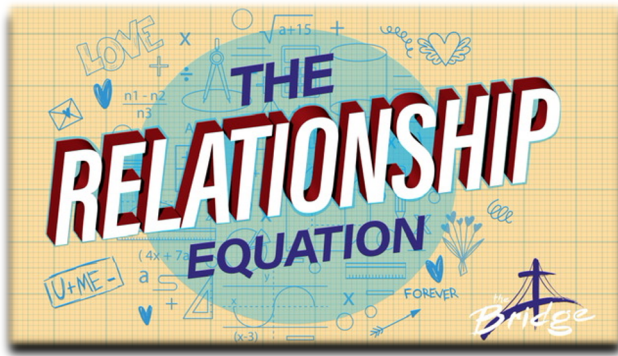
- Be careful not to rush too quickly to rely on someone before you know them.
- Be careful to watch the other person's reciprocity
- What you experience in dating is the ceiling for marriage.

To the Married:

- Be careful not to become too independent of each other
- Be careful to manage differences

Proverbs 15:22: *Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*

Romans 12:4-5: *For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*



Discussion

- Share one thing you really don't like relying on others for. Share something you really don't mind relying on another family member for. [5 min]
 - Have you ever had a family member, friend, or lover who was too dependent? Too independent? [5 min]
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- Does our reliance on others reflect or impact our ability to rely on God? [5 min]
 - Are there areas you feel like you are more reliable in than others? [5 min]

Choose a relationship that you want to go deeper with (marriage, business partner, friend, or family member). Identify one thing you could do this week to become more reliable for a specific person in your life. [10 min]

Challenge: Scriptures

- Matthew 6:30-33 (NIV) If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
- Matthew 15:22-28 (NIV) A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.
- Matthew 16:7-11 (NIV) They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread." Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

