

ROCK SOLID MARRIAGE

LIFE ON LOAN | WEEK 3

John Van Epp

THEOLOGY OF RELATIONSHIPS

RELATIONSHIP is the fingerprint of God...

It is intrinsic to the very nature of God.

THREE QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1 WHY ARE RELATIONSHIPS SO IMPORTANT?

2 WHAT EXACTLY IS A RELATIONSHIP?

3 HOW CAN WE BEST RUN OUR RELATIONSHIPS?

MATTHEW 22:34-40

GOOD NEWS TRANSLATION

34 When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together, 35 and one of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to trap him with a question. 36 “Teacher,” he asked, “which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

37 Jesus answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the greatest and the most important commandment. 39 The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ 40 The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

THEOLOGY OF RELATIONSHIPS

RELATIONSHIPS are also the framework for
all of the commandments of God.

God's plan is for you to grow with a focus on relationships, however relationships do not run themselves... so God wants to empower YOU to run your relationships!

Work out your own *salvation* with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you both to will and do of His good pleasure.

Work out your own *relationship to God* with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you both to will and do of His good pleasure.

Work out your own *relationship in dating and marriage* with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you both to will and do of His good pleasure.

PHILIPPIANS 2: 11-12

...BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS A RELATIONSHIP?

The dictionary defines relationship as...

[ri-**ley**-shuh n-ship]

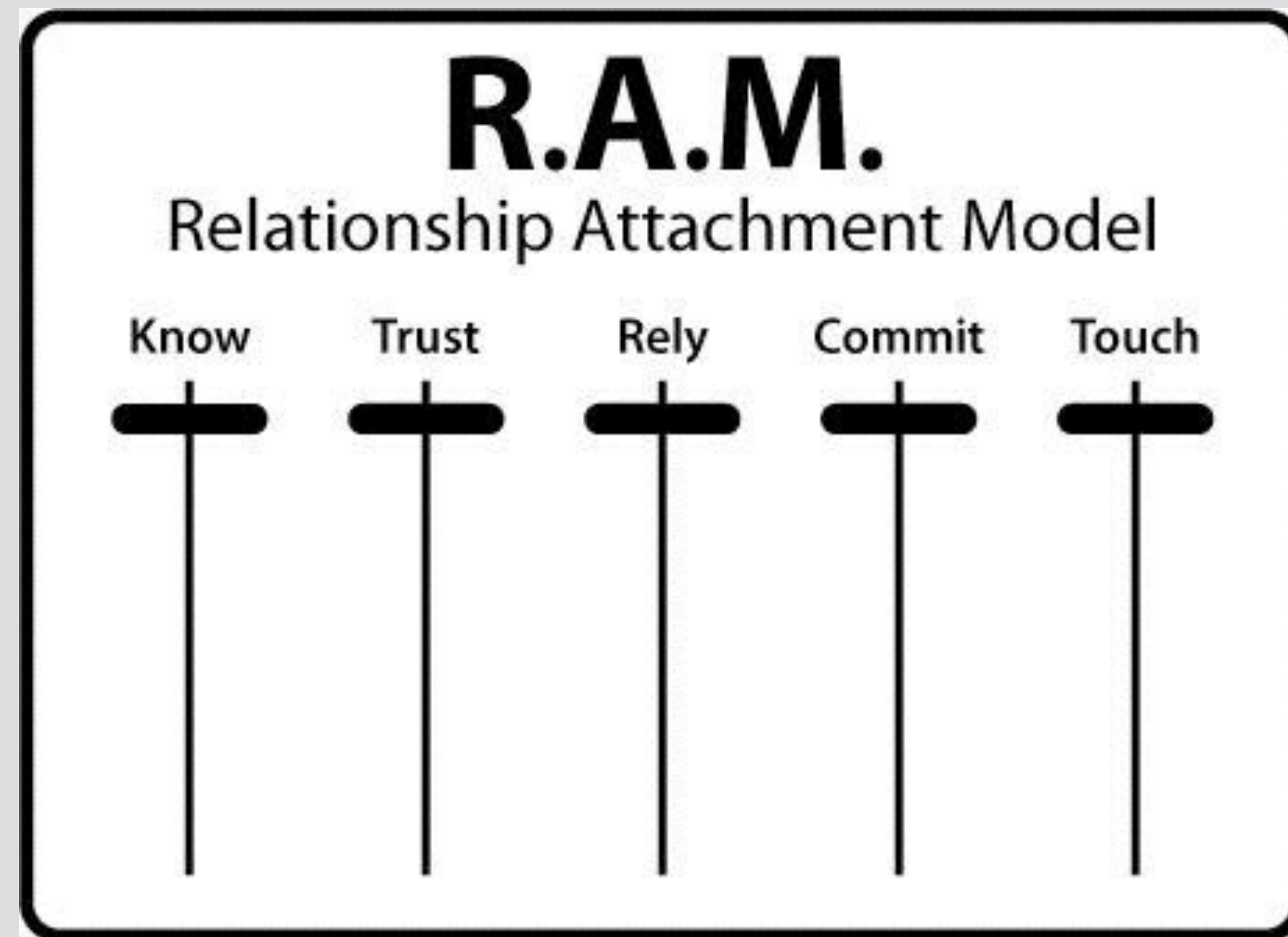
noun

1. a connection, association, or involvement

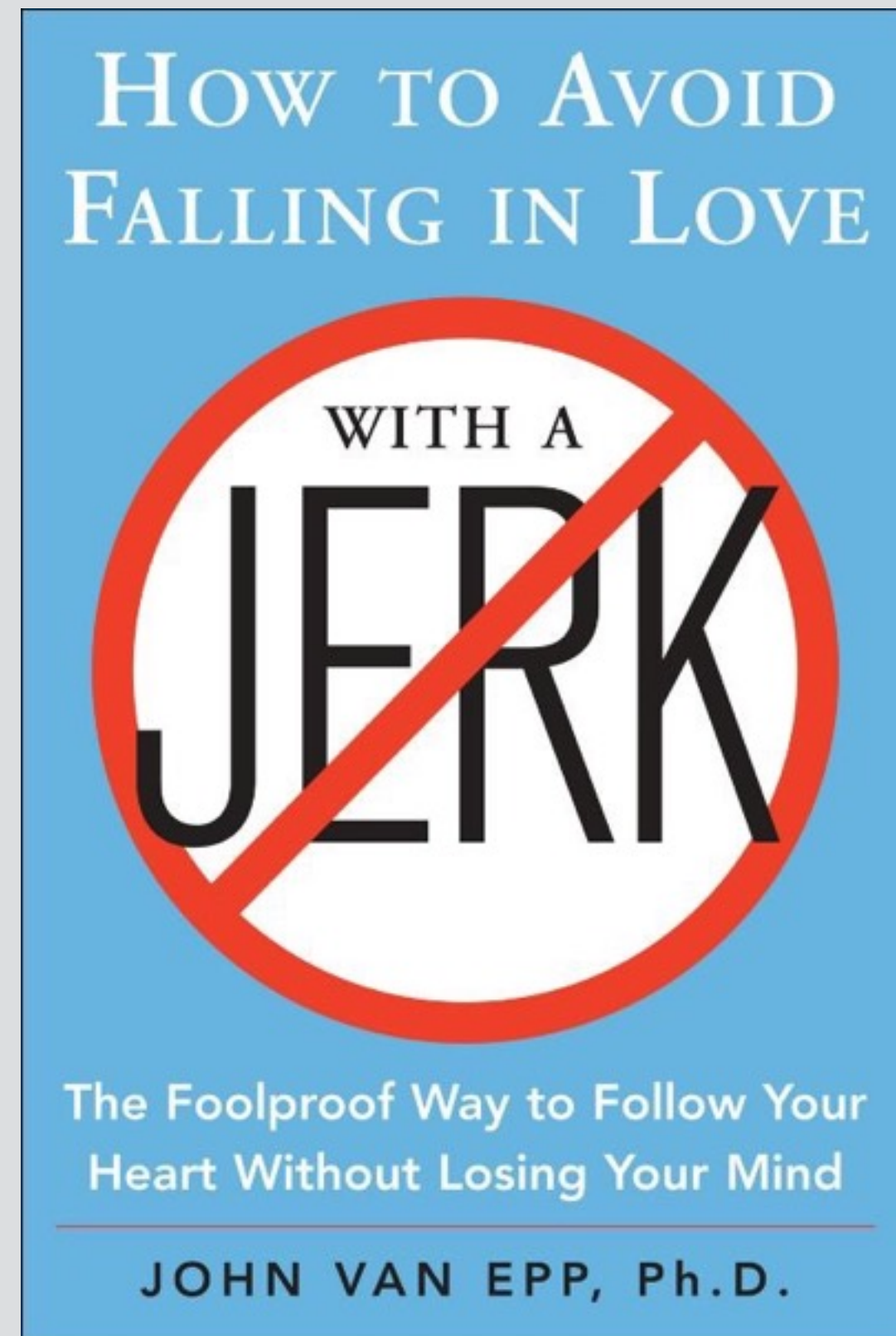
2. A connection between persons
by blood or marriage

GOD'S DESIGN FOR RELATIONSHIPS

- the RAM portrays the major connections or bonds in your relationships



HOW TO AVOID FALLING IN LOVE WITH A JERK OR JERKETTE.



dating relationships do NOT run themselves!

LOVE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE BLIND

- **TOO MUCH HEART...** the norm today is to build relationships BACKWARDS
- **TOO LITTLE KNOWLEDGE...** (“my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” Hosea 4:6)
- Keep your head and heart working together so you can follow your heart without losing your mind

THREE LAWS FOR ACTIVELY RUNNING YOUR MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

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#1: LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS

- *it is NORMAL to become imbalanced in your relationship*

33 In the world (*of your marriage*) you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

JOHN 16:33 KJV

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials **OF MANY KINDS** (*in your marriage*), 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

JAMES 1:2-4 NIV

THREE LAWS FOR ACTIVELY RUNNING YOUR MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

#1: LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS

- *it is NORMAL to become imbalanced in your relationship*

#2: LAW OF SLOW LEAKS

- the danger is NOT that you *become* imbalanced... the danger is that you *stay* imbalanced.

**SLOW LEAKS
LEAD TO BIG
BLOWOUTS!**

RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOT SELF-CORRECTING

THREE LAWS FOR ACTIVELY RUNNING YOUR MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

#1: LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS

#2: LAW OF SLOW LEAKS

#3: LAW OF FREQUENT RE-ALIGNMENTS

- ...success in your relationship comes from regularly balancing your imbalances!

RUN YOUR TRUST

- Trust is the feeling of confidence that comes from how you **THINK** of your partner...
- *what you put in the foreground and what you put in the background.*

YOUR TRUST-PICTURE

Object Relations Theory explains how we form trust-pictures

EFFIE



ROY



YOU LIVE WITH A PARTNER IN THE HOME... AND ONE IN YOUR HEAD

*What you focus on will
dramatically shift your trust-
picture of your partner*



ROCK SOLID

THE DANGER IS NOT
GETTING INTO A BAD
ATTITUDE TOWARD YOUR
PARTNER,

ROCK SOLID

THE DANGER IS NOT
GETTING INTO A BAD
ATTITUDE TOWARD YOUR
PARTNER, RATHER IT IS
STAYING IN A BAD ATTITUDE

YOU NEED TO REGULARLY REFOCUS ON THE POSITIVES OF YOUR PARTNER

*DAILY EXPRESS THE BLESSINGS OF BEING WITH
YOUR PARTNER.*

GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

*GOD WANTS TO EMPOWER YOU TO ACTIVELY RUN
YOUR RELATIONSHIP*