

Relationship Seminar

- It has been said that in order to have good relationships, we must first understand ourselves and then seek to understand others. This seminar is less about change and more about true understanding.
- When a relationship is desired with someone, you try to learn everything possible about the other person. Everything about the object of your affections is sweet and full of life. However, as time passes, what began as “sweet” can become tasteless. What once filled your “life” to the fullest can become dead.
- This seminar is about returning “life” and “sweetness” to your relationships.
 - 1 You may be at a point in life where your relationships are all wonderful. If so, thank God and learn from these lessons how to help others have what you have.
 - 2 You may be at a point in life where some of your relationships have become dull and tasteless. You don’t enjoy them because you get nothing from them. If so, thank God that all of your relationships are not that way and learn from these lessons what to do to improve your current relationships and restore the ones that have soured.
 - 3 You may be at a point in life where some of your relationships that were once precious have become sour and stone-cold dead. Not only do you not enjoy the company that you once kept, but it has become a source of grief and frustration. Close friends have become bitter enemies. Your desire is not for a restored relationship but a “cease-fire”. If so, thank God that He often gives second chances and that He can cause our enemies to “dwell in peace” with us - Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. You too can learn from these lessons how to gain back some of what has been lost. Although you may not desire it, God is capable of restoring to life what was once dead. We are talking about His abilities, not ours.
- So, where are you in your relationships with others? The answer is that we probably have relationships in all three categories.
- In order to understand ourself, we would be wise to consider God’s master plan in creating us. What is that plan?

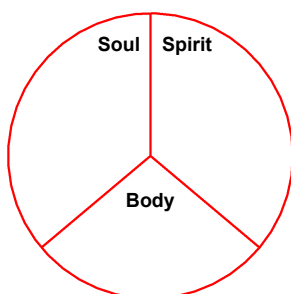
Genesis 1:26a And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: ...

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Literally “And God (Eloheem) said, Let us (plural - in Hebrew, three or more) make man” (singular, creative act). We see God in three persons doing a single act.

God says something different of man than of all the animals - “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”.

This has perplexed Bible Students of all ages. The most probable explanation is that God is teaching that since He (Eloheem) is a Trinity, man exists as three parts - body (which animals have), soul (which animals have) and spirit (which animals do **not** have).



- 1 Body - the part you see. It is what is put in the ground at death.
- 2 Spirit - a part you cannot see. It was “breathed” into man at creation. As a side note, man died spiritually when Adam sinned. Now, at salvation, God restores HIS spirit to man to give him “new” life. Romans 8:8-11, 1st John 4:13.
- 3 Soul - a part you cannot see. It is what others recall when they think of “you”. We could most closely call this our personality or “who” we are.

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- Man's Body and Spirit will be referred to as necessary during this study to help us understand our relationships. However, most of these lessons will be about the understanding of our personality (man's soul).

This is a personality assessment. Place an "X" in front of the word in each row that most often applies to you. If you are not sure which word "most applies" ask a spouse, a friend or think of what your answer would have been when you were a child. One "X" per row only.

Strengths

- | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Adventurous | <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptable | <input type="checkbox"/> Animated | <input type="checkbox"/> Analytical |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Persistent | <input type="checkbox"/> Playful | <input type="checkbox"/> Persuasive | <input type="checkbox"/> Peaceful |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Submissive | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-sacrificing | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociable | <input type="checkbox"/> Strong-willed |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Considerate | <input type="checkbox"/> Controlled | <input type="checkbox"/> Competitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Convincing |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshing | <input type="checkbox"/> Respectful | <input type="checkbox"/> Reserved | <input type="checkbox"/> Resourceful |
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-reliant | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirited |
| 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Planner | <input type="checkbox"/> Patient | <input type="checkbox"/> Positive | <input type="checkbox"/> Promoter |
| 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sure | <input type="checkbox"/> Spontaneous | <input type="checkbox"/> Scheduled | <input type="checkbox"/> Shy |
| 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Orderly | <input type="checkbox"/> Obliging | <input type="checkbox"/> Outspoken | <input type="checkbox"/> Optimistic |
| 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly | <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful | <input type="checkbox"/> Funny | <input type="checkbox"/> Forceful |
| 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Daring | <input type="checkbox"/> Delightful | <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomatic | <input type="checkbox"/> Detailed |
| 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheerful | <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultured | <input type="checkbox"/> Confident |
| 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Idealistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent | <input type="checkbox"/> Inoffensive | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspiring |
| 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Decisive | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry humor | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep |
| 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mediator | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical | <input type="checkbox"/> Mover | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixes easily |
| 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thoughtful | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenacious | <input type="checkbox"/> Talker | <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerant |
| 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Listener | <input type="checkbox"/> Loyal | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Lively |
| 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contented | <input type="checkbox"/> Chief | <input type="checkbox"/> Chart-maker | <input type="checkbox"/> Cute |
| 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Perfectionist | <input type="checkbox"/> Pleasant | <input type="checkbox"/> Productive | <input type="checkbox"/> Popular |
| 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bouncy | <input type="checkbox"/> Bold | <input type="checkbox"/> Behaved | <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced |

Weaknesses

- | | | | | |
|----|---|--|---|---|
| 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Blank | <input type="checkbox"/> Bashful | <input type="checkbox"/> Brassy | <input type="checkbox"/> Bossy |
| 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Undisciplined | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic | <input type="checkbox"/> Unenthusiastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Unforgiving |
| 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Reticent | <input type="checkbox"/> Resentful | <input type="checkbox"/> Resistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Repetitious |
| 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fussy | <input type="checkbox"/> Fearful | <input type="checkbox"/> Forgetful | <input type="checkbox"/> Frank |
| 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Impatient | <input type="checkbox"/> Insecure | <input type="checkbox"/> Indecisive | <input type="checkbox"/> Interrupts |
| 26 | <input type="checkbox"/> Unpopular | <input type="checkbox"/> Uninvolved | <input type="checkbox"/> Unpredictable | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaffectionate |
| 27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Headstrong | <input type="checkbox"/> Haphazard | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard to please | <input type="checkbox"/> Hesitant |
| 28 | <input type="checkbox"/> Plain | <input type="checkbox"/> Pessimistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Proud | <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive |
| 29 | <input type="checkbox"/> Angered easily | <input type="checkbox"/> Aimless | <input type="checkbox"/> Argumentative | <input type="checkbox"/> Alienated |
| 30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Naive | <input type="checkbox"/> Negative attitude | <input type="checkbox"/> Nervy | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonchalant |
| 31 | <input type="checkbox"/> Worrier | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn | <input type="checkbox"/> Workaholic | <input type="checkbox"/> Wants credit |

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- | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|---|
| 32 | <input type="checkbox"/> Too sensitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Tactless | <input type="checkbox"/> Timid | <input type="checkbox"/> Talkative |
| 33 | <input type="checkbox"/> Doubtful | <input type="checkbox"/> Disorganized | <input type="checkbox"/> Domineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Depressed |
| 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent | <input type="checkbox"/> Introvert | <input type="checkbox"/> Intolerant | <input type="checkbox"/> Indifferent |
| 35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Messy | <input type="checkbox"/> Moody | <input type="checkbox"/> Mumbles | <input type="checkbox"/> Manipulative |
| 36 | <input type="checkbox"/> Slow | <input type="checkbox"/> Stubborn | <input type="checkbox"/> Show-off | <input type="checkbox"/> Skeptical |
| 37 | <input type="checkbox"/> Loner | <input type="checkbox"/> Lord over others | <input type="checkbox"/> Lazy | <input type="checkbox"/> Loud |
| 38 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sluggish | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspicious | <input type="checkbox"/> Short-tempered | <input type="checkbox"/> Scatterbrained |
| 39 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revengeful | <input type="checkbox"/> Restless | <input type="checkbox"/> Reluctant | <input type="checkbox"/> Rash |
| 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Compromising | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical | <input type="checkbox"/> Crafty | <input type="checkbox"/> Changeable |

Now transfer all your X's to the corresponding words in the columns below and add up your totals. For example, if you checked "Animated" on the profile, check it on the columns below. (Note: the words below are in a different order than your assessment.)

Strengths

- | | <i>Popular
Sanguine</i> | <i>Powerful
Choleric</i> | <i>Perfect
Melancholy</i> | <i>Peaceful
Phlegmatic</i> |
|----|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Animated | <input type="checkbox"/> Adventurous | <input type="checkbox"/> Analytical | <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptable |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Playful | <input type="checkbox"/> Persuasive | <input type="checkbox"/> Persistent | <input type="checkbox"/> Peaceful |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociable | <input type="checkbox"/> Strong-willed | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-sacrificing | <input type="checkbox"/> Submissive |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Convincing | <input type="checkbox"/> Competitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Considerate | <input type="checkbox"/> Controlled |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshing | <input type="checkbox"/> Resourceful | <input type="checkbox"/> Respectful | <input type="checkbox"/> Reserved |
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirited | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-reliant | <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied |
| 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Promoter | <input type="checkbox"/> Positive | <input type="checkbox"/> Planner | <input type="checkbox"/> Patient |
| 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Spontaneous | <input type="checkbox"/> Sure | <input type="checkbox"/> Scheduled | <input type="checkbox"/> Shy |
| 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Optimistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Outspoken | <input type="checkbox"/> Orderly | <input type="checkbox"/> Obliging |
| 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Funny | <input type="checkbox"/> Forceful | <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful | <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly |
| 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Delightful | <input type="checkbox"/> Daring | <input type="checkbox"/> Detailed | <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomatic |
| 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheerful | <input type="checkbox"/> Confident | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultured | <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent |
| 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspiring | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent | <input type="checkbox"/> Idealistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Inoffensive |
| 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Decisive | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Humor |
| 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixes easily | <input type="checkbox"/> Mover | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical | <input type="checkbox"/> Mediator |
| 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Talker | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenacious | <input type="checkbox"/> Thoughtful | <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerant |
| 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lively | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Loyal | <input type="checkbox"/> Listener |
| 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cute | <input type="checkbox"/> Chief | <input type="checkbox"/> Chart-maker | <input type="checkbox"/> Contented |
| 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Popular | <input type="checkbox"/> Productive | <input type="checkbox"/> Perfectionist | <input type="checkbox"/> Pleasant |
| 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bouncy | <input type="checkbox"/> Bold | <input type="checkbox"/> Behaved | <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced |

Totals - Strengths

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Weaknesses

- | | | | | |
|----|---|---|--|---|
| 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Brassy | <input type="checkbox"/> Bossy | <input type="checkbox"/> Bashful | <input type="checkbox"/> Blank |
| 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Undisciplined | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic | <input type="checkbox"/> Unforgiving | <input type="checkbox"/> Unenthusiastic |
| 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Repetitious | <input type="checkbox"/> Resistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Resentful | <input type="checkbox"/> Reticent |
| 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Forgetful | <input type="checkbox"/> Frank | <input type="checkbox"/> Fussy | <input type="checkbox"/> Fearful |
| 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Interrupts | <input type="checkbox"/> Impatient | <input type="checkbox"/> Insecure | <input type="checkbox"/> Indecisive |
| 26 | <input type="checkbox"/> Unpredictable | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaffectionate | <input type="checkbox"/> Unpopular | <input type="checkbox"/> Uninvolved |
| 27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Haphazard | <input type="checkbox"/> Headstrong | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard to please | <input type="checkbox"/> Hesitant |
| 28 | <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive | <input type="checkbox"/> Proud | <input type="checkbox"/> Pessimistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Plain |
| 29 | <input type="checkbox"/> Angered easily | <input type="checkbox"/> Argumentative | <input type="checkbox"/> Alienated | <input type="checkbox"/> Aimless |
| 30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Naive | <input type="checkbox"/> Nervy | <input type="checkbox"/> Negative attitude | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonchalant |
| 31 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wants credit | <input type="checkbox"/> Workaholic | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn | <input type="checkbox"/> Worrier |
| 32 | <input type="checkbox"/> Talkative | <input type="checkbox"/> Tactless | <input type="checkbox"/> Too sensitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Timid |
| 33 | <input type="checkbox"/> Disorganized | <input type="checkbox"/> Domineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Depressed | <input type="checkbox"/> Doubtful |
| 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent | <input type="checkbox"/> Intolerant | <input type="checkbox"/> Introvert | <input type="checkbox"/> Indifferent |
| 35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Messy | <input type="checkbox"/> Manipulative | <input type="checkbox"/> Moody | <input type="checkbox"/> Mumbles |
| 36 | <input type="checkbox"/> Show-off | <input type="checkbox"/> Stubborn | <input type="checkbox"/> Skeptical | <input type="checkbox"/> Slow |
| 37 | <input type="checkbox"/> Loud | <input type="checkbox"/> Lord over others | <input type="checkbox"/> Loner | <input type="checkbox"/> Lazy |
| 38 | <input type="checkbox"/> Scatterbrained | <input type="checkbox"/> Short-tempered | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspicious | <input type="checkbox"/> Sluggish |
| 39 | <input type="checkbox"/> Restless | <input type="checkbox"/> Rash | <input type="checkbox"/> Revengeful | <input type="checkbox"/> Reluctant |
| 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Changeable | <input type="checkbox"/> Crafty | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical | <input type="checkbox"/> Compromising |

Totals - Weaknesses

Combined Totals

**Popular
Sanguine**

**Powerful
Choleric**

**Perfect
Melancholy**

**Peaceful
Phlegmatic**

This “assessment” is very easy to interpret. Once you have transferred your answers to the [blue scoring section](#) and added your total answers you will know your dominate personality type. You will also know what combination you are.

If your score is 30 in Powerful Choleric strengths and weaknesses, there’s very little question. You’re almost all Powerful Choleric. But if your score is 16 in Popular Sanguine, 12 in Perfect Melancholy and 6 in each of the others, you’re a Popular Sanguine with a strong Perfect Melancholy. You’ll also realize your least dominate type.

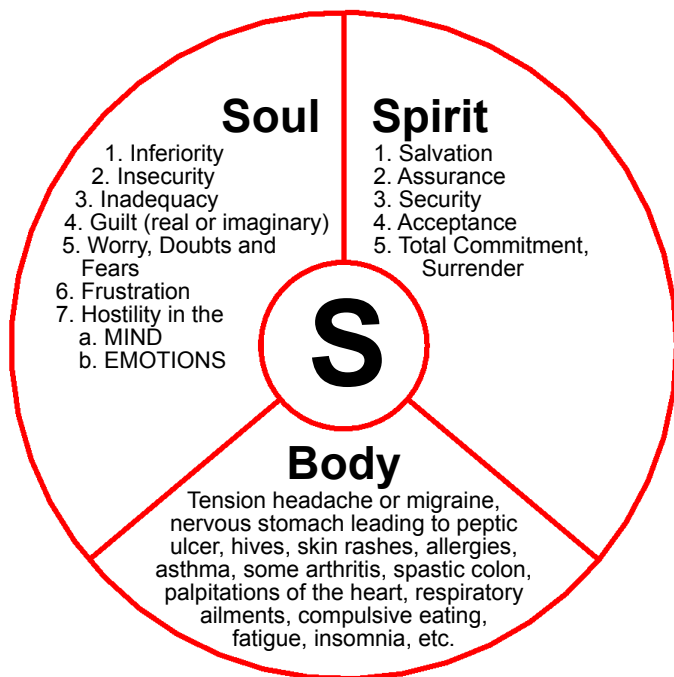
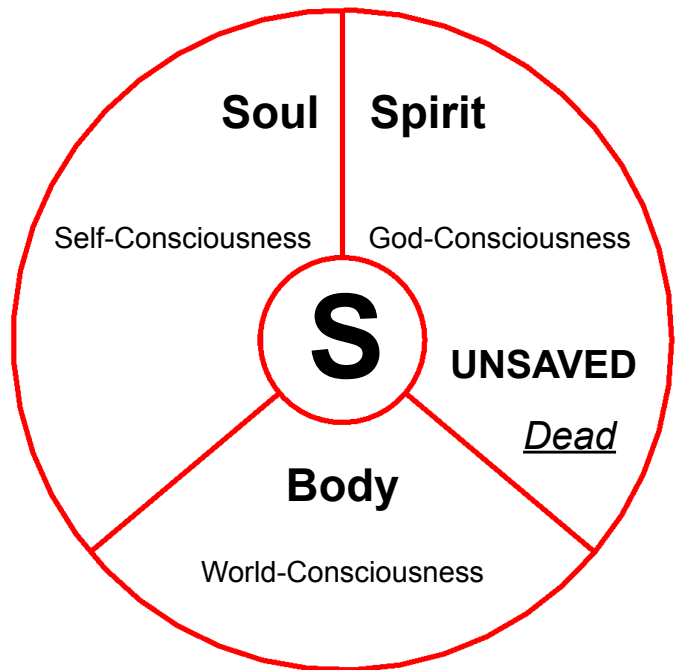
Understanding that your way of approaching life is different from another person’s approach is key to developing harmonious relationships. One personality is not better than the other, nor is one more “right”. They are different because God created us differently - yet in His image and in His likeness. A three-part created being.

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Q: The Bible says that if Adam and Eve sinned by eating the forbidden fruit they would die that same day (Gen. 2:17b). How could they have actually died if the Bible says that Adam lived 930 more years (Gen. 5:5)?

A: Clearly, they did not die physically that day. But God NEVER lies; therefore, the answer must be that they both died SPIRITUALLY the instant they sinned against God. Their soul and body remained alive, but they were dead in their ability to respond to God.

- At the point of exerting his will instead of following God's will, Adam sinned. Instead of doing what God wanted (not eating the fruit) he did what SELF wanted - eat the fruit. Since that time, it is human nature for SELF to be the center of our concerns. You see it in children that don't know how to hide their selfishness and you see it in adults that are not mature enough to hide it.



Q: What happens to a person when they "get saved" (become a Christian)?

A: God gives them HIS Spirit and they instantly have new life. At that instant, a Christian is 100% a Child of God. He can never become "more" saved or ever be "unsaved". Salvation depends on HIS work, HIS keeping and HIS perfecting.

Q: If I'm really saved, then why do I have such struggles living like a Christian should? The sins that I did before salvation are still a great temptation to me and sometimes, I fall into sin.

A: Many Christians do not understand the difference between "salvation" and "sanctification". It's really quit simple.

- The Bible says that when a person repents of their sins and asks God to "save" them (not send them to hell, not give them the eternal punishment they deserve, but give them new life and heaven instead) that He "saves" that person. We cannot do anything to "deserve" or "earn" salvation. It is a free gift (Ephesians 2:8-9). He even gives us His Holy Spirit to live in us forever (Ephesians 1:13-14).
- Sanctification is different. While salvation is instantaneous, sanctification takes the rest of our earthly life and will not be completed until we get a "glorified" body (like Jesus' resurrected body - Philippians 3:3-21). Our Soul (Personality) still has all of the baggage and bad habits that we spent a lifetime forming. To live a victorious Christian life, these sinful thoughts and

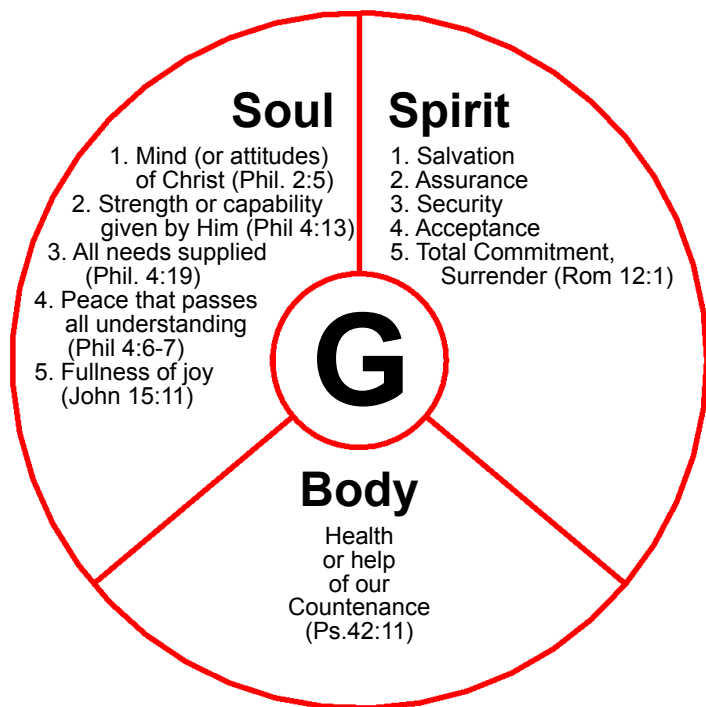
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ways must be dealt with through God's Word (the Bible). Only as we respond to HIS Word, do we begin to grow in Christian maturity. The exodus of the Israelites from Egypt gives us a vivid picture of a person who is "saved" but not "surrendered" and "growing in Christ".

Remember the attitude of the Israelites a few months after the miracle of crossing the Red Sea? Their lives could most easily be described by what they DIDN'T want. They didn't want to leave Egypt, didn't want to be in the desert, didn't want to eat manna, didn't want to hear God speak at Mount Sinai and didn't want to enter the promised land because of the giants. After a time, God had ENOUGH! Because of their unwillingness to grow and trust, God caused them to die prematurely in the wilderness and He chose to use their children.

Remember 40 years later? Two and one-half tribes didn't want to enter the Promised Land but instead chose to dwell just short of the best that God was ready to give them. However, the remaining tribes crossed Jordan, won incredible battles, lived in houses they didn't build and ate gardens they didn't plant. What wonderful provisions - in THIS life.

- What was the difference between the two generations of Israelites? All of them had crossed the Red Sea (signifying "salvation") but only part of them crossed the Jordan (signifying "surrender" - not death). The most obvious difference between the two groups is that the second group simply believed what God said and ACTED on it. Actions demonstrate real faith, real trust. Not what "I" want but what CHRIST wants.



Q: So, what makes a Christian "victorious" in this life?

A: Having God as the center of our life instead of "Self".

Q: Remember, that during Jesus' earthly ministry, He set the example of a victorious life for us. How did He set that example?

A: According to the Bible, Jesus did His Father's WILL in the power of The HOLY SPIRIT. Even though He is God the Son, He didn't do His will, but His Father's. He didn't use His power, but The Holy Spirit's. The same options are available to every Christian.

- Therein is the example. To live a victorious Christian life, we must do HIS WILL, but we don't have the power to do that (represented by the "S" in the diagram on the previous page). We must live in HIS POWER (the Power of the Holy Spirit).

- We must surrender completely to HIS control of our life. Only when God is in complete control will our Soul (personality) be one that pleases God and others. Only when He is on the throne of our life is He free to change the things that do not please Him. This "process" of Christ changing us (our personality) is called Sanctification.
- Literally, sanctification is the process of becoming "like" Christ while we are still on this earth. Romans 8:29 states that it is God's plan that every Christian will be conformed to (become just like) His Son, Jesus Christ. The word "conformed" gives the mental picture of a replica. It isn't the original, but a skillful copy of the original. We should be becoming just like Jesus in this life.

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So, what were those scores from page 4 and what do they mean?

Combined Totals

**Popular
Sanguine**

**Powerful
Choleric**

**Perfect
Melancholy**

**Peaceful
Phlegmatic**

• Popular Sanguine is the Extrovert, the Talker and the Optimist

Popular Sanguine's Emotions

Appealing personality
Talkative, storyteller
Life of the party
Good sense of humor
Memory for colorful details
Physically holds on to listener
Emotional and demonstrative
Enthusiastic and expressive
Cheerful and bubbling over
Curious
Good on stage
Wide-eyed and innocent
Lives in the present
Changeable disposition
Sincere at heart
Always a child

Popular Sanguine as a Parent

Makes home fun
Is liked by children's friends
Turns disaster into humor
Is the circus master

Popular Sanguine at Work

Volunteers for jobs
Thinks up new activities
Looks great on the surface
Creative and colorful
Has energy and enthusiasm
Starts in a flashy way
Inspires others to join
Charms others to work

Popular Sanguine as a Friend

Makes friends easily
Loves people
Thrives on compliments
Seems exciting
Envied by others
Doesn't hold grudges
Apologizes quickly
Prevents dull moments
Likes spontaneous activities

• Powerful Choleric is the Extrovert, the Doer and the Optimist

Powerful Choleric's Emotions

Born leader
Dynamic and active
Compulsive need for change
Must correct wrongs
Strong willed and decisive
Unemotional
Not easily discouraged
Independent and self-sufficient
Exudes confidence
Can run anything

Powerful Choleric at Work

Goal oriented
Sees the whole picture
Organizes well
Seeks practical solutions
Moves quickly to action
Delegates work
Insists on production
Stimulates activity
Thrives on opposition

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Powerful Choleric as a Parent

- Exerts sound leadership
- Establishes goals
- Motivates family to action
- Knows the right answer
- Organizes household

Powerful Choleric as a Friend

- Has little need for friends
- Will work for group activity
- Will lead and organize
- Is usually right
- Excels in emergencies

• Perfect Melancholy is the Introvert, the Thinker and the Pessimist

Perfect Melancholy's Emotions

- Deep and thoughtful
- Analytical
- Serious and purposeful
- Genius prone
- Talented and creative
- Artistic or musical
- Philosophical and poetic
- Appreciative of beauty
- Sensitive to others
- Self-sacrificing
- Idealistic

Perfect Melancholy at Work

- Schedule oriented
- Perfectionist, high standards
- Detail conscious
- Orderly and organized
- Neat and tidy
- Economical
- Sees the problems
- Finds creative solutions
- Needs to finish what is started
- Likes charts, graphs, figures and lists

Perfect Melancholy as a Parent

- Sets high standards
- Wants everything done right
- Keeps home in good order
- Picks up after children
- Sacrifices own will for others
- Encourages scholarship and talent

Perfect Melancholy as a Friend

- Makes friends cautiously
- Content to stay in background
- Avoids causing attention
- Faithful and devoted
- Will listen to complaints
- Can solve others' problems
- Deep concern for other people
- Moved to tears with compassion

• Peaceful Phlegmatic is the Introvert, the Watcher and the Pessimist

Peaceful Phlegmatic's Emotions

- Low-key personality
- Easygoing and relaxed
- Calm cool and collected
- Patient, well balanced
- Consistent life
- Quiet but witty
- Sympathetic and kind
- Keeps emotions hidden
- Happily reconciled to life
- All-purpose person

Peaceful Phlegmatic at Work

- Competent and steady
- Peaceful and agreeable
- Has administrative ability
- Mediates problems
- Avoids conflicts
- Good under pressure
- Finds the easy way

Peaceful Phlegmatic as a Parent

- Makes a good parent
- Takes time for the children
- Is not in a hurry
- Can take the good with the bad
- Doesn't get upset easily

Peaceful Phlegmatic as a Friend

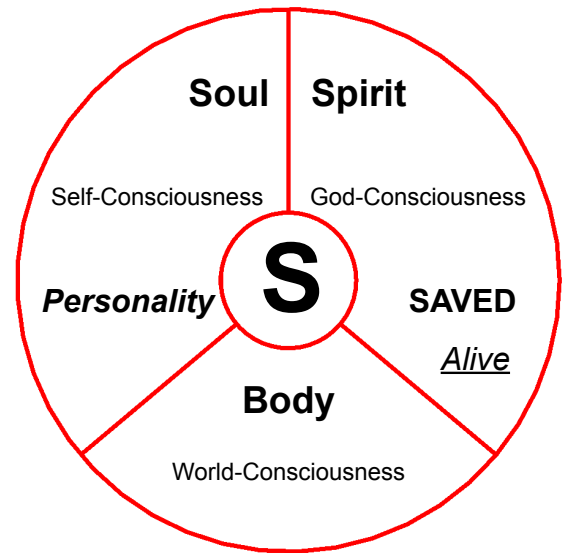
- Easy to get along with
- Pleasant and enjoyable
- Inoffensive
- Good listener
- Dry sense of humor
- Enjoys watching people
- Has compassion and concern

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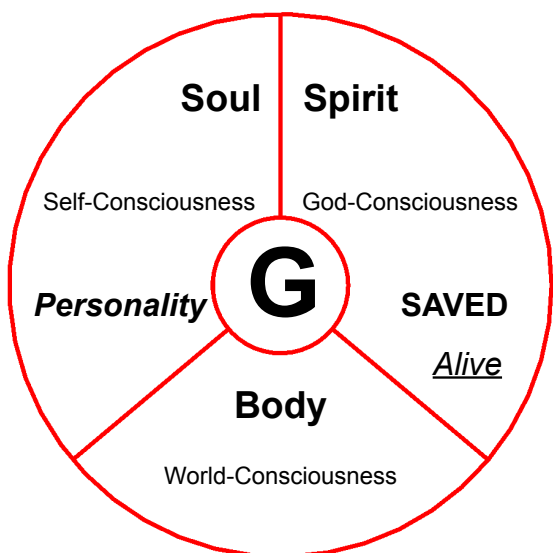
Remember, our personality (Soul) is how we relate to one another. When we are “self” centered, everything we say and do, every relationship, every effort to live harmoniously with other people is all done in our own strength.

What foolish Christians we are. We don't understand ourselves nor other Christians as we should. We don't appropriate the power of God in our lives. We live, we orchestrate, we strive to do better, we, we, we....

The “heart” of the matter is that even though we are Christians, we are still doing what comes natural - we are a Carnal Christian (living in the flesh in our own strength). If God's Word says something that is different from our lifestyle or our way of thinking, do we choose to “meditate” and “ponder” instead of “accepting” and “changing”? We are often our own worst enemy.



- Remember 1st Kings 19 and the lesson of Elijah at the Mount of God (Mt. Horeb)? When a Christian really wants to hear God, they must often get alone and get quiet. Yes, God can speak in a big booming voice like He did at Mt. Sinai. However, that terrified the Israelites. God more often speaks in a still, small voice.
- Are we so self-absorbed, busy or surrounded by the noise of life that we can't hear God's voice? Many times, God uses problems or circumstances to get our attention. Is it possible that the trials, difficulties, physical symptoms and problems we have are the result of not listening to God and not having THE right relationship with Him? We may insist that we are not so but the Bible reminds us in Jeremiah 17:9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it? When we don't respond rightly (either our of rebellion, delay or ignorance), He has to get our attention another way.



- In Acts 9:5, Paul was asked by Christ personally at his conversion “Isn't it hard for you to kick against the pricks?”. Paul had refused to listen to reason. He had refused to see the truth lived in the lives of Christian's he was putting to death. He refused to see how Jesus Christ fulfilled all the law and types in the Hebrew Bible. So Christ took a more direct approach, He spoke to Paul. God often speaks to us, but do we listen?

Q: So, what is necessary for us to hear God and make it easier for Him to speak to us than for us to put ourselves in a position where God has to use circumstances to get our attention?

A: The answer is that we must form a vital, constant relationship with Him. He must be Lord of all. We must live our lives doing His WILL in His POWER.

Relationship Seminar

- It is real surrender to Him when we identify with Him in His death, burial and resurrection. A Victorious Christian dies daily to self and like the Apostle Paul (1st Corinthians 15:31b) lives unto Christ (Philippians 1:21).

<p style="text-align: center;">Egypt <i>The World</i></p> <p>1. Self in Egypt 2. Bondage to Satan 3. Sin 4. Conviction of Holy Spirit 5. Christ as Judge 6. Control by Satan</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Physical Birth</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Grace through Faith</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Red Sea</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SALVATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">His death for us as our substitute</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ephesians 2:8-9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OBJECTIVE WORK</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Wilderness <i>Wandering</i></p> <p>1. Egypt in self 2. Bondage to self 3. Carnality, immaturity, unbelief 4. Discipline of Holy Spirit 5. Christ as Savior and Lord 6. Coexistence with Satan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Philippians 3:10 Philippians 1:29-30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">That I may know Him and the fellowship of His suffering</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Grace through Faith</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jordan River</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IDENTIFICATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our death (crucifixion) in Him as our representative</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Galatians 3:3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUBJECTIVE WORK</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Canaan <i>Promised Land</i></p> <p>1. Self dispossessed 2. Bondage to Christ 3. Adulthood 4. Control by Holy Spirit 5. Christ as life 6. Overt assault by Satan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and the power of His resurrection</p> <p style="text-align: center;">made conformable to His death</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Physical Death</i></p>
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- Relationships take time, thought and truthfulness.
- In order to have good relationships, we must first understand ourselves and then seek to understand others.

Q: So, what makes you, “you”?

A: God caused you to be born with your innate personality. It was decided by Him (just like your height, skin color, hair color, family resemblances and sex were determined at the instant of conception). Just like we cannot change our stature, we cannot change “who” we are. However, many Christians are not living true to the way God intended their personality to be. Are you being the real “you” that God intends you to be?

- In addition to personality, He gives several spiritual gifts to every Christian to be used in serving Him. When we don’t use our spiritual gifts correctly and willingly, the Church Body suffers. When our relationship with our Creator is not what it should be, our entire human body suffers as well. He often uses external pressure (family, friends, neighbors, financial difficulties, marital pressures, sickness, chronic diseases, etc.) to get our attention and bring us to the point that we will do ANYTHING to make life better. He has to give us more than we can handle in our own strength.
- We should never presume that because a person is having difficulty living life that there is a sin problem. Sometimes God allows testing to prove what is real and what isn’t (remember Job?).
- However, when there is an unresolved SIN problem, there WILL ultimately be relationship (personality issues and conflicts) and physical problems that come forth. It is one of God’s ways of chastising His children until they repent and make things right with Him and each other.

Relationship Seminar

- Christians readily understand that God has worked everything out for our salvation. There is nothing we can do to earn or deserve our own salvation. We understand it so well that if you ask most Christians “how to be saved?”, the response you hear will be something like this; all you have to do is to believe that Jesus Christ died to pay for your sins, repent of your sins (ask to be forgiven for them), ask Him to save you and He will. In essence, they are saying we are “saved by grace through faith” (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- If you then ask the same Christians how to live a Victorious Christian Life, you will likely get varied answers, most of which are totally incorrect. Answers like: read the Bible, pray, keep God’s commandments, do good, witness, get baptized, go to Church, tithe, help others are all things that a Victorious Christian will do, but doing them does not **cause** you to be a Victorious Christian.

Q: So, how does a Christian become a Victorious Christian?

A: The same way a Christian is saved “by grace through faith”. We cannot “earn” it or “deserve” it, but it is part of our earthly inheritance given to every believer by Jesus Christ.

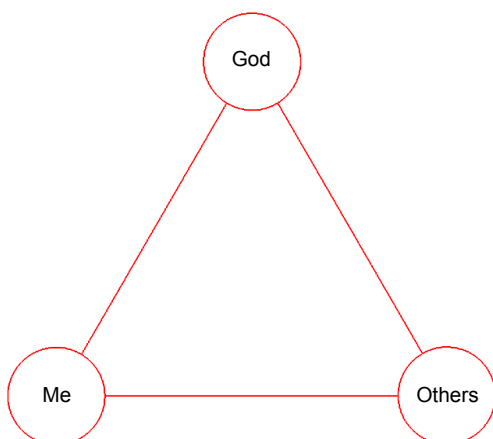
- Paul states it this way in Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
- Parents often live “vicariously” through their children (definition of vicarious: felt or undergone as if one were taking part in the experience or feelings of another). The son may be pushed to excel in sports because the dad never had the chance, or the daughter may be placed in beauty pageants because the mom never had a chance. Both parents would be living “vicariously” through their children’s experiences.
- Paul “vicariously” experienced his own “death, burial and resurrection” when he identified with what Christ had done during His death, burial and resurrection. Paul felt (second-hand) the same humiliation, betrayal, pain, suffering, death and victory that Jesus had felt; not about Christ’s sufferings, but about his own life, his own will, his own desires.
- Paul often used statements like this to demonstrate the correct Biblical view of a Christian who has “exchanged” his life for the Life of Christ:
 - Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.
 - Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;
 - Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
 - Romans 12:1-2 ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- Remember, God’s desire is to have unhindered fellowship with us like He did with Adam and Eve in the Garden (Genesis 3:8a). Sin did more than just break our fellowship with God. It placed within us the in-ability to respond rightly (remember Adam’s response when asked “where” he was?). Paul tells us in Romans 8:29 that God is conforming us (Christians) into the image of Jesus Christ. Literally, to be like Jesus, not just look like Him.
- Our spiritual **position** is perfect at salvation. However, our spiritual **condition** is pathetic.

Relationship Seminar

- Most people think that the Christian Life can be divided into three examples:
 - 1 A Christian receives little spiritual food. They are not regular in church or do not go to a good Bible preaching / teaching church. They don't get anything personal out of their Bible on a regular basis. Even though this person is saved and tries to "do what is right", he goes through life suffering from spiritual malnutrition. Even though he has been brought to life through a spiritual birth, there is little growth toward being "conformed to the image of His Son". In fact, when he realizes he is dying, he will feel worse spiritually than the day he was saved because of the realization that he has wasted his entire life.
 - 2 The average Christian life is one where there may be little or no growth for a number of years. Then some growth begins and continues as this Christian takes their children to church, performs some service in the church (usher, nursery, cleaning, Sunday School teacher) and finds that God uses them. It's a good feeling, but when the children are gone, he says to his wife "Let's let the younger ones do it; we've done our part." He becomes inactive spiritually and begins to coast (downhill). After a while, he feels guilty for his "backsliding" and determines to regroup and get involved again. This process repeats itself with spurts of effort and spirituality as he crams for his final (death). Even though God honors the efforts expended, this path represents more defeat than victory.
 - 3 The Good Christian as viewed by others is the Pastor, Missionary, Deacon, Pillar-of-the-Church type person. He is sold-out to God and may be a layman or a minister. He is a regular beehive of activity. He is involved in Christian activity morning, noon and night. He is generous with his money and his time. He proves that he has a burden for the souls of others. After years of trying to maintain this pace, he loses ground and determines to regroup. He changes churches or makes some other adjustment and charges ahead full force again. He again loses his direction and desire. Determined to do better, he changes things up again - never realizing that most of his "accomplishments" are little more than sincere self-effort. So, he gathers all his strength for one more gallant try. Failure this time results in the layman's dropping out of church or the Pastor leaving the ministry. God may bless someone who follows such a pattern in spite of himself, but such a person never goes on to real spiritual adulthood. Life is always some sweet victory along with much defeat. It is an experienced-centered life rather than a life of steady growth.
- However, there is a fourth example:
 - 4 There is the believer who matures into spiritual adulthood and has yielded totally to the Lord Jesus Christ but is interested primarily in personal growth rather than his service - in **being** rather than **doing**. As a result, he doesn't come on quite as strong as number three, but his is probably used of the Lord as much or more. In spite of his growth, he often feels that everything is going backward. There may be physical problems, psychological symptoms and conflicts with family, all of which deplete a believer's self-resources and bring him to the end of himself. He is still going uphill, but at a slower pace because he must come to utter helplessness. Only then is he ready for the Cross. Primarily because of ignorance, identification with the Cross usually does not become a practical experience for many until years after his life has been totally surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ. God uses adverse circumstances along with enlightenment in His Word to bring us to the end of our resources. We get so sick of ourselves that we cannot stand ourselves. Typically, only after we have reached this point does the truth of Crucifixion with Christ and Life in Christ produce a deep, dramatic transformation. Often, the change produced in a Christian's life at this point are greater than at salvation. After **IDENTIFICATION** (see diagram on page 10), the Lord Jesus lives HIS life through us - a totally different quality of life. This person is not worried about coming death because he has already died - in Christ!

Relationship Seminar

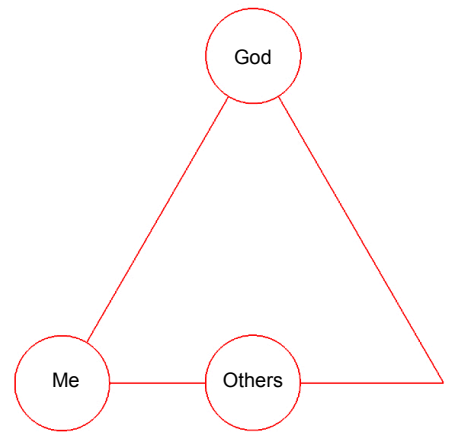
- When we realize how much God wants a real relationship with us (His children), we should interpret Romans 8:27-29 in a whole new perspective. *“27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”*
- We see the entire God-head (God in three persons) in these three verses.
 - 1 God the Father searches the hearts and knows the mind of God the Holy Spirit (v 27).
 - 2 God the Holy Spirit makes intercession (prays) for the saints (Christians) according to God’s will (just like Jesus did before His crucifixion - “Father... not My will, but Thine be done” (Luke 22:42).
 - 3 God the Son (Jesus Christ - the Messiah) is the ONE we are being made to conform to (His image - not just “look like” but “be like”).
- God goes to great lengths to make sure that EVERYTHING that happens in a Christian’s life, happens for their “good”. The Bible doesn’t teach that we “like” everything that happens, or that we “appreciate” or “agree with” everything that God is doing in our life (circumstances), but that it is according to God’s perfect will and is FOR our good - we are better off because of it.
- So, why do “bad” things (bad from our perspective) happen to “good” people (Christians)? The answer is because God is doing something special in our lives that He cannot accomplish any other way. Shouldn’t this make us WANT to cooperate with the process He is taking us through so the experiences will not be greater than necessary?
- Many times, God works in our lives through the relationships we have with other people. Remember, He is trying to “weave” us into a closer relationship with Him for OUR benefit.
 - 1 Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 says “⁹ Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. ¹⁰ For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up. ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone*? ¹² And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”
 - 2 We easily understand most of this passage, but what about the last part of verse 12 “a threefold cord is not quickly broken”? What (or who) is the difference between the “two” mentioned in most of the passage and the “three” mentioned last?
 - 3 The answer is “God”. When He is in a relationship (as He **always** is for a Christian), every relationship takes on new meaning and new purpose.



- Get a good mental image and understanding of the diagram to the left. For the unsaved person, every relationship is “linear” - only a straight line. However, for the Christian, every relationship is “three-fold” because every relationship also includes God. Now we can see how God so easily uses others to bring about necessary change in our lives.
- Not only does He use others to bring about change in our lives, but He uses US to bring about change in their lives - even when THEY are unsaved. This is possible because we are Christians and we have a relationship with Him.

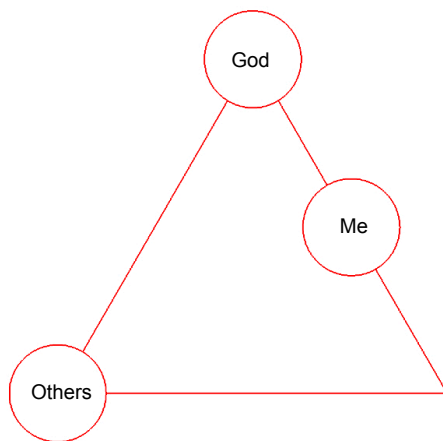
Relationship Seminar

- When we examine our relationships with others, we see that when they make a move toward us (move to have a closer relationship with us), then whom are they also moving closer to? _____.



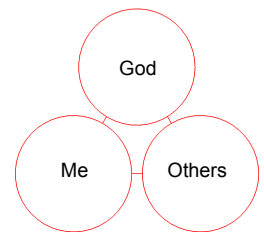
- This is only a diagram. It is not scripture, but it is Biblical. Whenever an unsaved person is “drawn” into a relationship (friendship) with a Christian, that person is affected spiritually - for the good of that person *1st Corinthians 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.*

- This verse does NOT teach that a person (spouse or child) is “saved” because of the Christian in their life, but that they are “sanctified” (set apart). Yes, there is a special, privileged relationship with God because of the Christian in their life. Note, this would only be true IF the Christian was in a right relationship with God; otherwise, the relationship with the Christian would be detrimental because they would be under God’s judgment. Remember, Christian, God WILL CONFORM YOU to the image of His Son - Jesus.



- So, what begins to happen when we have a close walk with God? Clearly, others that we have a relationship with are drawn closer to Him because of their relationship with us. This is why Christian fellowship is so important. We encourage each other in our Christian walk and maturing process (Hebrews 3:6-19).
- This is also why some seemingly “strong” Christians “fall away” or “backslide”. Their relationship with God is strong because of their relationship with another Christian rather than strong because of their relationship with God personally. God uses circumstances like this for our good to bring us to the point that we realize that our relationship with Him needs to be more personal (intimate) and less circumstantial.

- Realistically, shouldn’t we have a relationship with God FIRST? When we (as mutual Christians) have that kind of intimate relationship with God, then we also have a better (closer) relationship with each other. It isn’t that we should draw closer to each other, but in drawing closer to God, we naturally draw closer to each other. What wonderful fellowship exists between Christians when there is this kind of unity. Spouses, friends, family cannot be closer under any other circumstances than when God is FIRST and most important.



- In reality, when we are as close to God and others as possible, then we understand the meaning of Ecclesiastes 4:12b “a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Clearly, having a friend is better than having none, but having friends falls far short of what God intends for us to experience “in Him”.
- We should never fear that God will “take away” good friends or good friendships. Yes, sometimes, people move or loved ones pass away, but they are not “gone”. Only moved ahead to a better relationship with God than they could have here. The best gift you can ever give a spouse, child, parent, loved one or friend is to love God with all of your heart and have a personal, vibrant relationship with Him.

Relationship Seminar

- Let's face it. When there is a "relationship" with someone (nothing inappropriate but a friendship, neighbor, co-worker, family member, spouse or God) there is an emotional attachment to that person. Emotions aren't wrong. They were given to us by God. We respond emotionally to people, places and things. However, emotions should not control how we "react" to the circumstances in our lives. What the Bible says should always control our actions (and emotions). Remember, Ephesians 4:26 says "be ye angry and sin not..." Is that even possible?
 - Well, of course it is. First, the Bible would not tell us to do something that God would not give us the ability to do. Second, we have the example in Jesus. In Mark 3:5, He looked on the hard-hearted with anger. In John 2:13-17, we have the account of Jesus cleansing the Temple at the beginning of His earthly ministry and perhaps the clearest example of Jesus' wrath. Did Jesus ever sin? Clearly NOT! Therefore, it is possible to be "angry" and not be sinful. Jesus had an emotional reaction to what He saw, but He responded biblically.
 - If we want to have real, meaningful, lasting, fruitful relationships with others, then we must respond biblically in our relationships.
 - In order to respond biblically, we must understand what the Bible says about REAL love. So, what is the meaning of true biblical love? This might be most easily understood by recognizing some of the false statements the world makes about love and compare them to what the Bible says.
- 1 The world says "love is natural". The Bible says "not true". Love does not just "spring up" from nowhere. 1st John 4:7 says that "love is of God".
 - a In Ephesians 5:25, husbands are commanded to "love your wives".
 - b In Titus 2:4, the aged women are told to "teach the young women ... to love their husbands, to love their children".
 - So, love is NOT natural, but spiritual. One of the little known facts about the Bible is that it never tells us how to "feel". We are commanded what to do and what to believe but never what to feel. The husband is commanded to love and the wife is to be taught to love.
 - 2 The world says "true love is perpetual". The Bible says "untrue". Jesus warned that love can be damaged. He named one primary reason for this in Matthew 24:12 "... because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold". When sin enters a person's life, the relationships that they hold dearest are damaged because of their own sin. An icy heart replaces what was once a warm heart and "love" dies. This is why many marriages end in divorce. Sin entered the life of one (or both) and the relationship died.
 - 3 The world says "love is a feeling". The Bible says that true love is more than a feeling. 1st Corinthians 13:4-8 gives several statements that help us identify true love.
 - a Love suffers long and is still kind.
 - b Love is not proud, rude or selfish.
 - c Love is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs.
 - d Love always bears up, always trust, always hopes, always endures.
 - Most people (including Christians) mistake infatuation for love. They are not the same. Dr. Ed Wheat, a licensed physician, marriage counselor and author of several books about love, defines infatuation as an "emotional and fleshly response to false impressions or mere externals of another person that have been overvalued or lusted after." If what you "feel" as "true love" fails, then it is not true, biblical love.

Relationship Seminar

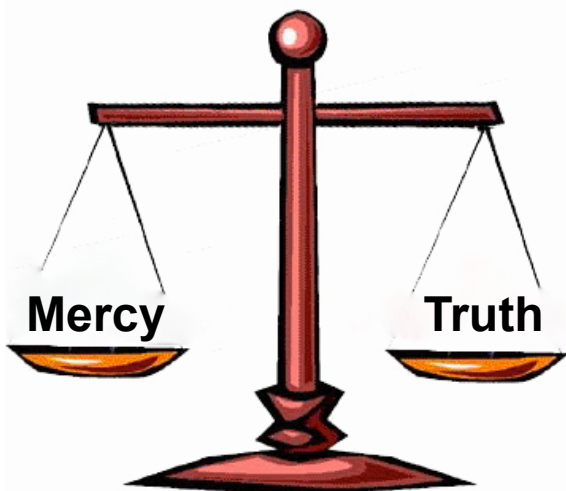
- 4 The world says “love is conditional”. The Bible says “not so”. Worldly “love” describes itself many times in the following two ways:
 - 1) I love you “because of”... (because of your good looks, because of your money, because of your job, house, possessions, etc.).
 - 2) I love you “if”... (if you meet my needs, if you make me feel good, if you meet all my expectations, etc.).
 - True biblical love says I love you “in spite of”... (in spite of your scars, in spite of your weight, in spite of your failures, in spite of your sin, etc.). Romans 5:5 says that the “love of God is shed abroad in our hearts”. It is not based on appearance, perfection or performance. That is because true, biblical love gives (John 3:16a “For God so loved the world that He gave...”).
- 5 The world says that “love is measurable”. They have attempted to quantify love, capture it, boil it down to its essence and examine it under a microscope. Love is not a product that can be weighed, understood and explained. Love is not a product, but a process.
 - According to the Bible, love cannot be perfected but it can be improved with God’s help. Paul writes that love is the open-ended, never-ending growth in a Christian grace - 1st Thessalonians 3:12 “The Lord make you to increase and abound in love toward one another...”

But the Bible says more than this about love. It also says:

- 6 Love is spiritual. John 13:35 “**By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**” 1st John 4:8 “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” The world can experience intense infatuation but not genuine, biblical love.
- 7 God is the means of love. In Ephesians 5:18b, Paul writes, “be filled with the Spirit.” This command is several verses before the command for husbands to love their wives. Why is that? It is because God knows that love cannot be sustained over the long haul without the energy of God. He is not only the source, but the dispenser of it (Romans 5:5 and Galatians 5:22).
- 8 God is the standard of love. In order to understand the love of God, we must look at His sacrifice. 1st John 3:16a “Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us:...” True love is not 50/50 but 100/0.
- 9 Biblical love is an action. John 3:16 “**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**” The true measure of your love is not what you “feel” for another, but what you “do” for them.
- 10 Love is a choice. You rarely hear of a parent not loving their child, but how often do we hear of a spouse, friend, co-worker, etc. who is no longer “in love”. True, biblical love is a choice. It is an act of the will (Deuteronomy 7:7).
- 11 Love is esteem. The Greek word “esteem” means “to lead in your thoughts”. Literally, when we choose to love, we also choose to think the best things about what we love (Psalm 119:128, Philippians 2:3 and 1st Thessalonians 5:12-13a).
- 12 Love is a commitment. God’s love for us is so great that He did not condition it upon our strength, attractiveness or perfection (fortunately). He saw our sin, saw that we were doomed and damned to Hell and died for us anyway (John 3:16). When this kind of Godly, biblical love is missing in our relationships, the results are disastrous. It is impossible for an unsaved person to give this kind of love. Are you truly committed to your relationships or are they a matter of convenience?

Relationship Seminar

- There are several things that must be present in our lives if our relationships with God and others are to be successful. Sometimes, the Bible mentions these necessities in pairs - obviously intending that one without the other is an imbalance. Have you ever seen a one-legged man run? Probably not. The primary reason is that it would be impossible for him to maintain balance. He could try, he could hop, but race? Probably not.
- God has many attributes (things that are true about God). He is holy, unchanging, infinite, all-powerful, all-wise, all-knowing, self-existent, just, good, gracious, merciful and truthful (just to name a few). Some of God's attributes are unique only to Him and cannot be true about us (we cannot be omni-present, we cannot be self-existent, we cannot be all-powerful) but the Bible tells us that certain of God's attributes should be present in our lives. Certainly, Christians are commanded to be "holy".
- Proverbs 3:3-4 also mentions a pair of God's attributes that should be present in our lives. *"Let not **mercy** and **truth** forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man."* Interestingly, there are three things we can observe about this "pair" of God's attributes.
 - 1) They are mentioned in the same order twenty-one out of twenty-three times.
 - 2) They have specific benefits attached to them.
 - 3) They cause God to bless you and treat you as one of His favorites.
- So what are some observations we can draw from the Bible about having this pair of God's attributes present in our life?
- In Genesis 24:26-27, Eliezer (Abraham's servant) acknowledges that both "mercy and truth" are from God and that both are present in Abraham's life. We value fame; God values faithfulness. We value success; God values service. We value applause; God values authenticity. We value recognition; God values righteousness. You may sometimes fool others into thinking that "mercy and truth" are present in your life, but your family and God know the truth about you. Do you have both?
- Apparently, even when "mercy and truth" are present in our lives, it is possible for us to let them run away (let "them" not forsake thee). It's not that we leave "mercy and truth", but that they leave us. How is it possible for "mercy and truth" to run away?



- Maybe because of our basic temperament (Sanguine, Choleric, Melancholy or Phlegmatic) we have a tendency to be "merciful" or to be "truthful". It is also possible that because of external circumstances and experiences that we find ourselves being "more of one than the other". The Bible makes it clear. Not only must "mercy and truth" be present in our lives but both qualities should be strong and both should be balanced.
- Remember King David? He had "mercy and truth" at one time - he spared Saul's life, but insisted on Saul admitting the truth about David. However, at some point during David's reign, he let "mercy and truth" get away from him. This caused him to fail miserably with at least three of his children.

Relationship Seminar

- 1 Amnon (David's eldest) raped his half-sister Tamar. David showed mercy but no truth. Amnon deserved to die for that horrible act, yet David did not punish him at all. After waiting two years, Absalom took matters into his own hands and killed Amnon.
- 2 After Absalom killed his brother, David showed all truth and no mercy. Absalom hid for years and even when he was allowed to return to Jerusalem, David refused to meet with him.
- 3 The Bible says of another son, Adonijah, in 1st Kings 1:6 *"And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why has thou done so? And he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom."* Again, all mercy and no requirement to hold to the truth. This is why Adonijah tried to seize the throne during David's declining years even though he knew that Solomon had been designated to be the next king.
- 4 Most of David's children became reprobate because of his inability (or unwillingness) to maintain a balance of "mercy and truth" as he had with King Saul. Why do we treat strangers and enemies better than our own families?
- 5 What was the difference between Solomon and his brothers? Why was Solomon able to instruct his son (Rehoboam) to not allow "mercy and truth" to flee from him? The easiest answer appears to be his mother's influence. How did Bathsheba make such a huge difference in Solomon's life from the lives of his half-brothers?

First, Bathsheba had personally experienced God's mercy and truth in her own life. When she had sinned against God with King David, she suffered the consequences (truth) but God was also merciful to her in comforting her and giving her more children (2nd Samuel 12:24.)

Second, Bathsheba had spent Solomon's youth making sure that he experienced "mercy and truth". Proverbs 4:3 *"For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother."* Solomon was not an only child, but he states that his mother made him feel so special as if he were an only child. It was her mercy that Solomon remembered from his childhood. However, Proverbs 31:1 states *"The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him."* Lemuel appears to be a nickname given by his mother. It means "one who belongs to God." The Hebrew word "taught" has the idea of chastening someone until they change their behavior. So, youthful Solomon had to be paddled to learn truth. That is how his mother taught him "mercy and truth".

Third, when Adonijah tried to grab the throne for himself, we see Bathsheba responding in "mercy and truth". She comes before King David and whom does she meet? Her nemesis, Abishag (1st Kings 1:15-16). Instead of responding in truth and risk losing her son's life, she chose to respond in mercy *"and Bathsheba did obeisance unto the king."* She showed mercy by what she didn't say and what she didn't do. She also remained focused on truth and told her husband what none of his advisors were willing to tell him. "David, your son Adonijah has just proclaimed himself to be king. You told Solomon that he would become the king."

- The imbalance that Solomon observed in his father and the balance that he saw in his mother not only changed his life but saved it. It also allowed him to instruct his son (Bathsheba's grandson) on the necessity of having and keeping "mercy and truth" in his life.
- **When truth is allowed to dominate and mercy is subdued, then there is the potential for incredible rebellion in the lives of our children. When mercy overcomes truth, they will grow up without a commitment to doing right and staying within God's boundaries.**

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The Simple Secret to a Better Relationship with the Opposite Sex.

(Particularly applicable to couples)

- If we take the time to examine the message that is being broadcast by most modern TV shows, we quickly come to the conclusion that the average father in the average family is a complete idiot that cannot get along in life without the correction provided by his family - especially his wife. The average wife is typecast as a nagging woman that scolds, whines and screams until her hubby finally does things her way.
- Such a portrayal is not biblical. Regrettably, because our culture has watched so many TV programs over recent decades, the above scenario has become “reality” in many of our homes - even Christian homes. Since many Christians have grown up in homes that provided little or no biblical role model of a properly functioning relationship between the parents, we have emulated the only role models we are familiar with: mothers that scold and fathers that withdraw. Children in such an environment feel insecure and grow up to reproduce the “sins of their fathers” in their own homes.
- It is an amazing observation that when we REACT to what our loved ones are saying (or doing) we NEVER respond biblically in ANY given situation.
 - 1 What does the Bible say is the greatest need that a husband should meet in his wife?
 - 2 What does the Bible say is the greatest need that a wife should meet in her husband?
- The Bible gives us a very clear answer in Ephesians 5:33. *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*

Notice two very interesting things in this chapter.

- 1 The love (of the husband) and the respect (of the wife) are to be “unconditional” (given even though they are not deserved).
- 2 Both the husband and wife are commanded to provide different things to their spouse. Things that go against their natural response. Why is this so?

A woman naturally understands “love”. She gives it to her children, her parents, her girlfriends, her neighbors, almost anyone that she knows. It is in her nature to be loving. When she “feels” loved by her husband, her marriage is good, life is good and all of her problems can be worked through. However, she cannot survive for long without giving and receiving love.

A man naturally understands “respect”. He gives it to his co-workers, his friends, and usually to strangers on the street. It is in a man’s nature to show respect to others. When he “feels” respect from his wife, it matters much less what the rest of the world thinks. He is married to the most wonderful woman in the world, life is good and any problems they have will be met together. He cannot survive well without respect.

- As a couple (or parent or child) God intends for us to meet each others deepest emotional needs.

Wife, mother, daughter, you may tell a man in your life that you love him, but if you really want to bring tears to his eyes, write him a letter that explains the things that he has done that cause you to have such respect for him. Chances are that even though it is a man’s deepest need, he has rarely ever had proof that his loved ones respect him.

Husband, father, son, you may thank a lady in your life for lots of the things that she has done for you, but if your ACTIONS and WORDS don’t demonstrate that you love her, she will not feel loved.

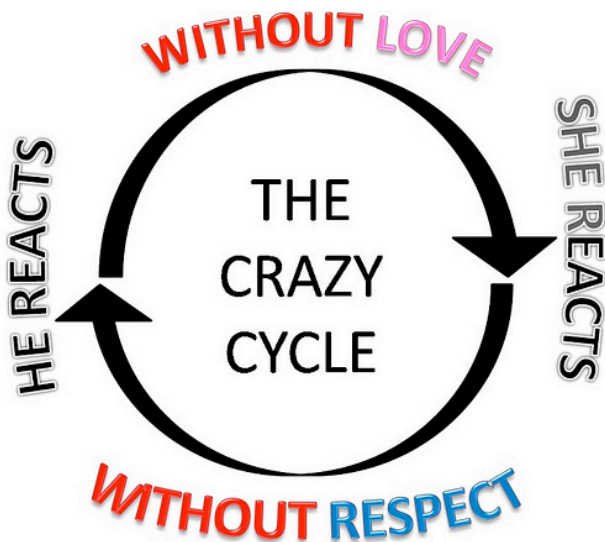
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- Why are love and respect such basic, primary needs (we all need love and respect but we are talking about primary needs)? How can we be so sure that a woman primarily needs to feel loved and a man primarily needs to feel respect?

The wife is the one who asks “Does my husband love me as much as I love him?” She knows that she loves him, but she wonders if he loves her nearly as much. When he comes across in an unloving way, she naturally reacts by complaining and criticizing. If you ask most husbands “Does your wife love you?” they reply “Yes, of course.” But then if you ask “Does she like you?” the answer is usually “Nope.”

When they courted, she was the admiring, ever-approving lady that won his heart. Now, she doesn't approve and she freely lets him know it - sometimes at the top of her lungs.

Most husbands do not know how to respond when their wife begins treating them with disrespect. The man's usual response is to “shut down” and show no emotion. This convinces the wife that he no longer loves her as he once did, which causes her to complain and be even more dis-respectful. She filters life through pink sunglasses and hearing aids. His are blue. Thus, the cycle continues to spiral downward toward broken relationships.



In a recent survey, over 7,000 men from all walks of American life were asked to choose which one of two different negative experiences they would prefer to endure for the rest of their life.

- a) to be left alone and unloved in the world
- b) to feel inadequate and disrespected by everyone

Almost 80% of men said that if they were forced to choose, they would prefer being alone and unloved in the world. Who knows, maybe the other 20% chose the first answer out of fear that their wife would find out.

Our culture has proclaimed “everyone needs love” or “everything will work out alright if you just love them enough”. Neither statement is true.

- Have you thought or said “After the way she treats me, she doesn't deserve to be loved” or “I can't respect someone who has done the unloving things he has done to me”? We are not talking about what is “deserved”. Remember, we deserve an eternity in Hell. We are talking about what is needed most from our partner in a relationship - at all times.
- We desperately need to learn to decode the messages sent by the opposite sex.

When she is upset, she is crying out that she needs to be reassured of your love. Men misinterpret this and run to the rescue to “fix” what is wrong. How many times have men heard from their wife “I don't want you to do anything, I just want you to know”?

How many times has the wife heard her husband tell everything that he did during the day, how hard he worked, what he accomplished? She doesn't hear it because he has gone silent. If he were to mention the things that were important to him and she didn't respect him for those things.... Remaining silent is preferable to being rejected by the one that you love.

- So, when partners are unbiblical in their response, which one changes first? The mature one!
- Pray that God will help you to unconditionally give what is needed instead of what is natural.

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- So, how do we keep our relationships from getting on the “Crazy Cycle”? We must purposefully, actively stay on the “Energizing Cycle”.

How to spell “love” to your wife

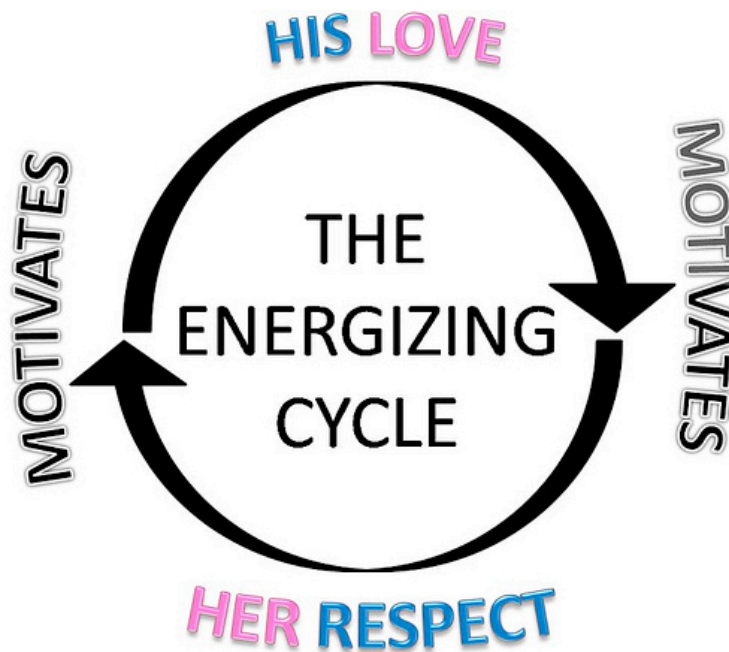
Ecclesiastes 9:9

- C Closeness - she wants you to be close. Spend time with her, not just near her.
- O Openness - she wants you to open up to her. Share what’s on your mind and heart.
- U Understanding - don’t try to “fix” her. Listen and let her talk. There may not be anything wrong.
- P Peacemaking - she wants you to say “I’m sorry”. It’s powerful for her to know you are at peace.
- L Loyalty - she needs to know you are gladly committed. It takes reassurance to convince her.
- E Esteem - she wants you to honor and cherish her. Show her with symbols. (Song of Solomon 8:6 - “seal” is translated elsewhere as “signet”).

How to spell “respect” to your husband

Proverbs 14:1

- C Conquest - appreciate his desire to work and achieve. He worked before he had a wife.
- H Hierarchy - appreciate his desire to to protect and provide. To be a princess makes him prince.
- A Authority - appreciate his desire to serve and to lead. God holds him responsible (Gen. 3:9).
- I Insight - appreciate his desire to analyze and counsel. He’s doing it for you.
- R Relationship - appreciate his desire for silent friendship. He experiences things with others.
- S Sexuality - appreciate his desire for intimacy. In a marriage, it is right. Outside of marriage, it is always wrong (sinful).



- Marriages go through ups and downs just like other relationships.
- The Bible indicates that problems exists in a marriage to bring us closer together and closer to God (Rom. 8:28). It is usually the spouse that is the primary one that God uses to work through because we’re not hearing Him personally and directly. Why do we get angry at the “messenger” instead of just hearing and responding to His message?
- If your relationship is not as good as it can be, then you are spending too much time in the “Crazy Cycle” and not enough proactive time on the “Energizing Cycle”.

- God wants us (as males and females) to show proper love and respect. It is one thing to hear His command and “do” it. It is another thing to hear His command and “receive” it. Yes, you should shower respect and love on your relationships, but do you have a problem receiving it when it is offered?

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To receive love from her husband, a wife must...

- C Closeness - remember that he is moving toward you to accept your need to talk and connect with you to reassure you of his love.
- O Openness - remember he shares his thoughts with you to draw you out so please don't resist his efforts. Don't falsely put yourself down just so he will build you up. Be truthful about yourself with him.
- U Understanding - he may not "fix" a problem because he misunderstood your intentions. He has a hard time "reading you right" because you are his opposite and he loves that about you.
- P Peacemaking - he is willing to resolve issues and apologize when wrong. He can "drop it and move on" but you can't. Talk through it, understand it and accept his apology.
- L Loyalty - He is constantly looking for little ways to let you know that you are still the love of his life. Recognize the little ways he is constantly letting you know that he is loyal to you - forever.
- E Esteem - He treasures you and puts the highest value on you and your thoughts. Spot when it happens, thank him and he will do it more often.

To receive receive respect from his wife a husband must...

- C Conquest - recognize that she stands behind you and supports you in your work and endeavors.
 - H Hierarchy - recognize that she does respect and appreciate your desire to protect and provide for her and the family. Accept princely treatment from your princess.
 - A Authority - she accepts your authority because she also accepts that God holds you primarily responsible for her (even to die for her). Rule wisely and benevolently so that the ones being led are grateful for their leader.
 - I Insight - she trusts and appreciates your ability to analyze things and offer solutions. Don't just accept her intuition. Protect her.
 - R Relationship - let her spend some "shoulder-to-shoulder" time with you. She wants to be your friend as well as your spouse.
 - S Sexuality - honor her needs as well as your own and only within marriage.
- Be reasonable. We sometimes must get to the point where we realize that our spouse is showing love (or respect) but that we aren't accepting it because it isn't offered exactly the way that we want it. At that point we have become unreasonable because we have focused on the one thing that we don't like instead of all of the good things being offered. Jesus was always reasonable. A Christian in a right relationship with God is always reasonable too.
 - Be kinder than you are to strangers. We give strangers the "benefit of the doubt" and "cut them some slack" but don't offer the same kind advantages to our closest friends and spouse. When that is true, we are most of the problem.
 - When you meet a need in your spouse, it comes back to you. Don't give what you need, but give what they need. Meet the need lavishly. God will cause you to "reap what is sown".
 - We fail to practice the things in marriage that were good in courtship. After spending so much time to kindle the fire, why let it "die down"? It takes such little effort to keep the fires burning hot and bright. It does take effort and boy, is it ever worth it!
 - Titus 2:3-5, The older women should teach the younger women to love their husbands (*phileo* - be fond of) and be keepers at home (*oikouros* - domestically inclined).

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How to Have Friendships That Work

It's not all about YOU!

- To have successful friendships we must understand several things. First, we must understand that there are three types or levels of friendships. Second, we must properly evaluate what kind of friendship we have (or want) with a particular individual. Third, we must be the right kind of person and choose the right kind of person to have the right kind of friendship. In the Bible, David and Jonathan's friendship passed through the first two levels of friendship until they became "Close Friends".
 - 1 **Casual Friends:** we know who they are, their interests and what they enjoy.
 - 2 **Occasional Friends:** we know their names, what they do and we see them occasionally.
 - 3 **Close Friends:** friendships that grow out of our shared enjoyments, convictions, accomplishments and concerns.
- When we are attracted to one who is lovely and Christlike, one who is living a radiant Christian life, one who is obedient to the Word of God, then this is a potential "close friend". However, it can be a costly mistake to have a weak or disobedient Christian as our best friend, for soon we will be like them.

Close friends have a several things in common:

1 Mutual faith, and mutual interests.

1st John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

2 Mutual Concerns.

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

3 Mutual Values.

Ephesians 6:23-24 ²³ Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

4 Mutual Attraction.

Philippians 1:3-7 ³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, ⁵ For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: ⁷ Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

5 Mutual Enjoyment.

Proverbs 15:30 The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.

6 Mutual Warmth of Personality.

Romans 12:8b ... he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

7 Mutual Strength of Character.

1st John 2:14b ... I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

8 Mutual Trust and Trustworthiness.

1st Samuel 20:42 And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

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9 Mutual Devotion - committed to the friend's best good.

Proverbs 27:10 Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: *for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.*

10 A Mutual Forgiving Spirit - good friends are good forgivers.

Colossians 3:13-14 ¹³ Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*. ¹⁴ And above all these things *put on charity*, which is the bond of perfectness.

- **The measure of my friendship with others is determined by my relationship with the Lord and His Word.**

A close friend can be trusted.

- 1 Friends may not always agree on all things, but they can agree to disagree and still remain friends. They can respect each others' right to their opinion. (Don't argue with unsaved friends, but lovingly seek to point them to Christ.)
- 2 There are times when a sincere rebuke is essential to friendship.
He is no friend who allows wrong to continue uncorrected.
"Faithful are the wounds of a friend..." (Proverbs 27:6). Loving rebukes are no threat to true friendship because true friends can be trusted. Loving confrontation with the gospel is necessary to win the lost.

A close friend gives encouragement.

- 1 A true friend is one who helps you through the trials and tests of life.
If you minister to (lovingly serve) an unsaved friend in a time of crisis, you may win a hearing for the gospel at a later time.
- 2 When the world and the devil attack you from the outside and the flesh is undermining your strength from within, a friend will be there to encourage and build you up.
Proverbs 27:9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.
Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

A close friend will make sacrifices.

- 1 Friendships are not found, they are established and developed through investing time and effort. (Friendliness is the first step toward winning a hearing for the gospel and giving your testimony.)
- 2 Friendship involves caring for and sharing in the life of another.
(Be there for your friend.)

- **There is a difference between loving a friend and loving how that person makes you feel.**

- **To ruin a friendship there are seven rules you can learn from Saul's treatment of David.**

- *Make sure your friendship is based on what another can do for you.*
- *Be possessive.*
- *Cultivate jealousy.*
- *Explode, don't discuss your anger and irritation.*
- *Avoid the person who threatens and annoys you. Stay out of their way.*
- *Cultivate envy.*
- *Harbor hatred in your heart, believe you are justified to feel that way.*

Relationship Seminar

The Power and Importance of Real Communication

The story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 highlights the incredible potential and power of communication. In a state of rebellion against God, the people attempted to build a tower that would "reach unto heaven." What did God do to prevent them? Rather than sending an earthquake or plague, He chose to ruin their ability to communicate. God knew that communication was foundational to their ability to get anything done.

Communication is absolutely vital to human existence, and God desires for us to communicate with each other in a way that will solve problems, build relationships, and bring glory to Him.

What are the basic purposes of communication? Why is it so powerful and important? One of the most significant purposes of communication is to solve problems and build relationships. In marriage, communication is the single greatest factor in working through problems. If you're not dealing with problems right now, communication is the single greatest factor in building and strengthening your relationships.

There is so much frustration in homes and families because of failure to adequately communicate. Young people say, "My parents don't talk to me." Parents, it isn't our impression of how much we are communicating with our children that matters. It's their impression that counts. It is a wise father and mother who does not rely on just spanking, grounding, or grabbing car keys, but who knows how to grab a child's emotions in a heart-to-heart conversation.



One of the greatest family crises that can develop is communication shutdown. All other crises inevitably erupt from it. Once communication has shut down, it is often painful and difficult to get it started again. And when it does start up, it will often begin with conflict that causes people to run away instead of staying with it. Any time there is a problem, the solution is not less communication, the solution is more communication. The problem will not work out if you just walk away.

It has been said that communication is to a relationship what blood is to the body. As the blood flows through the body, carrying out impurities and bringing fresh cells and life, so communication regularly carries out the impurities of a relationship and causes the whole relationship to be fresh and new and alive.

Seven Practical Steps to Effective Communication

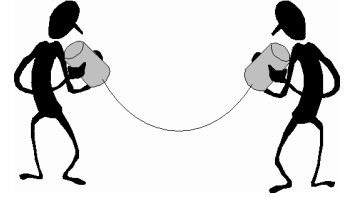
I **Discover, learn about and show interest in the interests of others - especially your spouse and your children.**

- A This principle is found in Romans 15:1-2. It says we "ought . . . not to please ourselves . . . Let every one of us please his neighbor . . . to edification." Find the interest of your spouse and get interested in it. Maybe it's gardening or sewing, the work or computers. Perhaps it's hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, carpentry, cooking, quilting, singing, or playing an instrument. There are hundreds of possibilities.
- B If you want to be interesting to someone, you've got to take an interest in the things that interest them. Look for it, discover it, learn about it. By doing so, you create an area where two people can connect and begin opening doors for communication.

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II Listen with your entire being.

- A Isaiah 55:2-3 says, "Hearken diligently unto me ... Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live." That word hearken, the Hebrew word *shama*, means "to listen intelligently, to pay attention." This is distinct from the simple act of hearing; it means listening on purpose. The phrase "incline your ear" is the Hebrew word *nata*. It means to stretch or bend. It implies that you are doing something to cause yourself to yield. When we listen, we need to do it on purpose, intelligently, with our entire being.
- B Researchers have found that words make up only 7% of the a total message. Inflection and tone of voice make up 38%, and body language and facial expressions make up 55%. If you're not really paying attention when someone is talking to you - if you're hearing their words but not looking at them and really listening - you are missing over 90 percent of the total message. It's vital that we give others our full attention - especially our spouses and children - when they are talking to us.

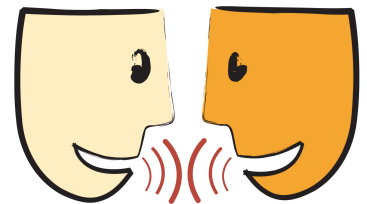


III Watch for opportunities to praise, honor and reverence your spouse, parents and children.

- A Twice in the Psalms, we're told that praise is "comely." Put-downs are ugly. A young man should never put down his sisters. Why? Because he's training himself to do the same thing to his wife. In a distorted way, it makes them feel like a big man. But if you really want to be a big man, be humble and praise others. Putdowns are ugly, but appropriate praise is beautiful, proper, and fitting.
- B It is important that a young lady honor her father so that she will know how to reverence her husband. Why is that so important? Have you ever seen a woman able to steal away a man whose wife was reverencing him? It's been tried and usually fails because the reverence of a wife creates a powerful connection of communication that draws him to her and protects him from other women with wrong motives and wrong attitudes.

IV Plan times and settings just to communicate. It brings balance to the man, intimacy with the wife and security to the children.

- A Purposely set time aside just for communication. Have a date with your wife just to talk. Men, we may not feel like we need this, but the truth is we need it more than we think we do. Deliberate communication brings balance to our lives. And your wife needs it because it gives her a feeling of intimacy, closeness, and oneness with you.
- B Husbands, when you cut off that communication or do not allow your wife to share her feelings, you're doing more than simply not listening to her. You are cutting her off as a person. You are starting a dangerous and destructive process, causing her to feel more and more like an object, instead of like the most important person in your life.
- C Parents should also make times to communicate with their children. The older your children get, the more important this becomes. Too often, as children enter the teen years, communication between parent and child diminishes. It should be the opposite.



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- D Plan times and settings just for communication. Too many families don't sit down and have meals together, or if they do eat together, they're watching TV while they do. Make an effort to have family meals as often as you can. It's one of the best opportunities you'll have to communicate.

V Watch for and accept God-given opportunities. He will hand you opportunities to communicate.

- A It's easy to feel too busy to take time out of the day to communicate with others - especially our family. But we need to realize that God sends opportunities that we ought to take advantage of. Too often we tell others that we're "too busy right now" or are too self-absorbed to notice the everyday opportunities for communication that God sends their way.
- B There is a balance that we need to achieve, especially with younger children. Children should not be allowed to barge in and expect their parents to drop whatever they're doing and give the child their full attention. They need to be trained to be respectful, polite and considerate. At the same time, parents need to recognize the difference between a child being rude, disrespectful, in need of training and correction, or a child simply needing the parent to pause and communicate.
- C We also should accept our God-given responsibilities to not delay in communicating the truth when it is needed. There are certain subjects in life that a parent is responsible to communicate to the child. Those things should be done BEFORE it is necessary so that open communication is built between the parent and child. Too little information too late builds walls and keeps communication from happening.

VI Ask questions. Follow Jesus' example. He taught, answered questions and asked questions.

- A Go through the Gospels and notice that Jesus, the greatest communicator who ever lived, not only taught and answered questions, but asked questions. We need to ask questions of others. "How are you doing today? Have you been praying like you should? Did you read your Bible today? How do you feel about such and such? Do you know that I love you and respect you?"
- B Ask questions ranging from simple questions about everyday life to those that touch on the foundational issues of who we are and what we believe. "Why is it important to put things away? Why should we pay bills on time? What did the sermon you heard at church say to you?" Questions open doors for communication, and they not only help us learn more about each other, but they cause us to think through important issues.

VII Learn to draw emotional word pictures around their areas of interests.

- A This is especially important if you're having difficulty communicating with a certain person. The goal of drawing emotional word pictures is to communicate in such a way that you reach not only the person's mind, but their heart as well. This works with both men and women, but especially with men. You want to grab his heart in such a way that he can't get away from it. A profound example of this concept is found in the Bible in 2nd Samuel 12. The Prophet Nathan comes to reprove David for what he has done. He begins by telling a story that contains a compelling emotional word picture. David, who had spent his youth as a shepherd caring for sheep, could closely identify with the poor man and his love for that

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lamb. We see the emotional impact this story had on David in the next verse: "And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die." Nathan's reply to David, as a follow-up to the powerful emotional word picture he had just drawn, brought the point home in a way that nothing else could have done: He said "Thou art the man."

- B The key in drawing an emotional word picture is to find a person's interest, something close to his heart, and then draw a parallel between that and whatever situation you're dealing with. The power of Nathan's words came from the fact that David could so closely identify with the poor man in the story. He knew what it was to care for lambs. He had put his own life on the line to protect and defend his sheep. The terrible cruelty of the rich man, who wasn't content to draw from his own immense resources but instead chose to steal and kill the poor man's lamb, came to life for David in a powerful way. When Nathan drew the comparison between David and the rich man, David finally realized the full weight of his sin.
- C If you're having trouble communicating with someone in a critical area, especially if you're trying to work through some problem or difficulty, try to find an interest and create an emotional word picture around that interest. Anything this person is able to closely identify with is good material. It might be a hobby, career, childhood memory, or accomplishment. Find a parallel between the interest and the current situation and create an emotional word picture that will grab the other's heart and help him or her understand your perspective on the issue at hand.

Communication is truly the foundation of relationships, and our ability to communicate is one of the single most significant factors that will determine the strength of our relationships (families). By remaining aware of our opportunities for communication and implementing some basic principles, we can strengthen our families and experience the joy of truly fulfilling relationships.

Suggested Reading List:

- Biblical Leadership*** by Ken Collier and Matt Williams www.wilds.org
- Handbook to Happiness*** by Dr. Charles R. Solomon www.gracefellowshipintl.com
- Lies Women Believe*** by Nancy Leigh DeMoss www.reviveourhearts.com
- Love & Respect*** by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs www.loveandrespect.com
- Love & Respect Workbook*** by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs www.loveandrespect.com
- Marriage Assurance*** by Jim Binney www.leadministries.net
- Mercy & Truth*** by Dr. Paul A. Kingsbury www.reformu.com
- Personality Plus*** by Florence Littauer www.amazon.com
- The Christian Home*** by Dr. Clarence Sexton www.faithforthefamily.com
- The Ministry of Marriage*** by Jim Binney www.leadministries.net