

Relationships: Some Assembly Required

Part One

Relationships: The World's Glue

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MAIN IDEA: Relationships are the glue that hold our world together. Consider the Christian faith itself— it is based on a relationship, not a religion. All of life is intertwined by relationships.

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (NLT)

9 Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. 10 If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. 11 Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? 12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

WHY ARE RELATIONSHIPS SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF LIFE?

Because God is a relational God

“No matter how brilliant your mind or strategy, if you’re playing a solo game, you’ll always lose out to a team.”

—Reid Hoffman, cofounder of LinkedIn

Excerpt from: "Your Next Five Moves: Master the Art of Business Strategy" by Patrick Bet-David

1. THE GLUE OF _____

1 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV)

3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

INDIVIDUALITY WITH UNITY

“There is one man, one woman, and love. If this fails, then perhaps there will be one man, one woman, and a pet animal or a mutual hobby. Or there may come a time when she notes, not without appropriate jealousy, that he seems wed to his work, which is now a third in the marriage.”

—David Miller, Three Faces of God

Genesis 5:24 (NIV)

24 Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

2. THE GLUE OF _____

Proverbs 17:9 (NLT)

9 Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.

Two aspects in all relationships which make them difficult: Faultfinding and Unforgiveness

- Familiarity breeds contempt
- What you see is what you get
- Microscope vs. telescope
- What you praise increases in value; what you complain about decreases in value

*“Some people find fault
like there’s a reward for it.”*

—Zig Ziglar

Better to find love than to find fault.

Proverbs 19:11 (GNB)

11 If you are sensible, you will control your temper. When someone wrongs you, it is a great virtue to ignore it.

“Men have faults; women have flaws.”

—Carl Toti

Ephesians 5:25 (CPDV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church and handed himself over for her,

1 Peter 3:5-6 (WNT)

5 For in ancient times also this was the way the holy women who set their hopes upon God used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their husbands.

6 Thus, for instance, Sarah obeyed Abraham, acknowledging his authority over her. And you have become Sarah's children if you do what is right and permit nothing whatever to terrify you.

1 Peter 4:8 (WNT)

Above all continue to love one another fervently, for love throws a veil over a multitude of faults.

ANSWERS:

1. FAITH

2. FORGETFULNESS