

RELATIONSHIPS

ROMANTIC (DATING & MARRIAGE)
PARENTING | FRIENDSHIPS

The way that we handle our relationships with other people in our lives says so much about where we are as Christians. There are seemingly countless verses in the Bible about how we should treat the people around us, how responsible we are to take care of the people under our care, and how we treat our significant others.

If you are married, the way you treat your spouse shows so much of where you are with Jesus. There are far too many stories of leaders in the church who look great on the outside, but it eventually comes out that their home life is in shambles.

Men, learning to love your wife as Christ loves the church is a huge goal. Women, submitting to your husband while living out your personal calling is paramount. There's a reason the Bible so often uses marriage as a metaphor for God's relationship with us...

Whether we are married or dating, our relationships should show the selfless love of Christ to the world around us.

In a similar way, parents in the church actively build the Kingdom of God through the way they raise and pour into their kids. SO MANY of the issues in our world today come from absent parents who don't invest in their kids and love them the way they are supposed to love. A large part of discipleship is learning how to represent Jesus well in your relationships, and parenting is one of the most important areas for this.

At the same time, you can learn a lot about people in how they treat their friends. We can't be all things to all people at all times, but we should be people that are reliable, generous, and encouraging to our friends. Purposely investing in the people in our lives is so incredibly significant.



BY THIS EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

JOHN 13:35

RELATIONSHIPS CONT.

1

Regardless of any relationships you are in, are you getting your identity and value from God first and foremost? Where have you been getting it from people, and how does that need to change?

3

How good are you with communication in your relationships? Do you seek to understand before seeking to be understood? Do you clearly communicate your thoughts?

5

Do you bring unnecessary emotional baggage into your relationships? Are you taking more from the other person than you are giving to them? Are they taking too much from you?

7

Parents, are you spiritually leading your kids as a Godly role model? Are you taking care of their needs, nurturing them, disciplining them, and fostering their relationship with Jesus? Are you willing to listen when challenged in parenting?

2

How vulnerable are you being with your discipler about your relationships? Have you told them every area you're struggling? Would you believe them if they said you had an issue in one of these areas?

4

Do you let your relationships with people define your relationship with God, or does your relationship with God define everything else?

6

Are you pursuing purity in all of your relationships? If single or dating, are you staying completely away from sex and decisions that lead to sexual mistakes? If married, is your sex life healthy and selfless?

8

Do you practice hospitality well? Do you invite people into your home and your life, and serve them? Are you able to make friends by pursuing people who don't always reciprocate?

QUESTIONS TO ASK IN DISCIPLESHIP

RESOURCE	AUTHOR / CREATOR	TYPE
Biblical Relationships	Living Faith Church	Booklet
The Five Love Languages	Gary Chapman	Book
Love and Respect	Dr. Emerson Eggerichs	Book
Parenting Without Regret	Jimmy and Laura Seibert	Book
The Strong Willed Child/Wife/Husband	James Dobson	Book
Sacred Marriage/Parenting	Gary Thomas	Book
Intended for Pleasure	Ed and Gaye Wheat	Book
oneextraordinarymarriage.com	Tony and Alisa DiLorenzo	Podcast
Friendish	Kelly Needham	Book

DIGGING DEEPER