

Five Relationship Phases

Introduction: YWAM is dedicated to being relationship-oriented in our living and working together. We desire to be united through lives of holiness, mutual support, transparency, humility, and open communication, rather than a dependence on structures or rules. Value # 13

I. Attraction (Formation)

A. What creates the attraction?

1. Physical appearance (Inflated value, over present external-person is unknown)
2. Character qualities (Pure, upright, honest, integrity, faithfulness, values)
3. Similarities, Differences (Interests, background, vision, calling, sports, books)
4. Curiosity (Unique)
5. Response of another (Acceptance, affirmation, love, kindness, gentleness)
6. Inner needs (Rejection, woundedness, insecurity, lack of affection,)
7. God's gifting. The way we are made. "Attraction Gift."

B. Observation: Key-impact of the relationship upon you. (You change!)

You are attracted to someone, not primarily for what they are, but rather for what you become as a result of your contact with them.

C. Not everyone finds the same person (group) attractive, "What does she see in him?"

D. Romantic attraction can be particularly challenging

1. Attraction does not legitimize a relationship (Hollywood-BOING!!!)
Our culture is in love with love! Fantasy of romantic love.
2. We should refuse to let romantic attractions rule us
3. We should not release romantic affections until the Lord permits
Don't over commit yourself emotionally or physically

E. The "honeymoon period" (Maximize the positive and minimize the negative)

It is hard to conceive that this person could hurt or disappoint you. Mr.

Marvelous,

Miss Wonderful, not like previous partners. Not open to negative input.

II. Testing (Proving)-Counting the cost!

A. Requires (1) time and (2) meaningful interaction

*You begin to notice things that you initially overlooked-Anger, stubbornness.
Strengths now appear as weaknesses. Attractive qualities now irritate.
Spontaneous/Irresponsible, Stable/Rigid

*Engaged couples

1. Have you experienced any hurt or disappointment?
2. Have you had any serious doubts and questions?
(14 Scriptures, 3 Dreams)

B. Luke 14:28 First sit down and calculate the cost

C. A time of questioning and evaluation.

1. Is God really in this? How do I know it is right?
2. Is this going to work out after all?
3. Can I accept them as I now see them?
4. Can we forgive and get over any hurts we experience?
5. Do I want to live with this level of conflict the rest of my life?
6. It is a time of questioning, evaluation and redefining

D. Fears surface during this stage

1. Fear of rejection-Will they accept me if they really get to know me?
Pain is so intense that we terminate the relationship before rejection.
2. Fear of failure, (Previous relationships-Notice similar patterns)
3. Fear of Commitment (Yes to one means no to thousands of possibilities)
Marry a fantasy. Ask the tough questions.

III. Commitment (Establishing)

- A. Commitment defines a relationship. Establishes boundary.
- B. It provides the basis for freedom and intimacy (Protection for intimacy-must be appropriate for intimacy level)
If you want a marriage relationship you must make a marriage commitment.
You can't practice permanency!! Dr. Barbara Markey
- C. It is a promise or covenant
 1. The level should be defined (Are you married? Student/Staff Commitment)
 2. The conditions should be defined. (Source of wounding-lack of clarity).
 3. The duration should be defined-3 months or for life?
 4. Needs to be specific-dates, financial amount.
 5. Is it conditional, unconditional, total, partial?
 6. Marriage-Total commitment of the total person for the total life.
- D. It must be communicated clearly
Rom 10:9-10 Internal response/Verbal acknowledgment (Isaiah 29:13)
- E. It needs to be mutually agreed upon and freely entered into
 1. Room of committed relationship (One commits emotionally to the new room)
 2. Example: (Sagals)
- F. What is the basis of the commitment?
 1. Conviction or convenience?
 2. Needs, relationships, vision, attraction, emotional, physical
 3. The revealed will of God (Commit based on what I think it will be like/leave because of what it is actually like)
 - a. If God is in it, I can fully commit myself to it (Gen 2:23 "This is it!")
 - b. Eve was God's perfect gift to Adam
 - c. Instead of changing partners, partners need to change.
 4. God's purpose is often different than ours
 - a. Isaiah 55: 8-9 My thoughts are not your thoughts...(Joseph-Egypt, II Sam 15: Ittai the Gittite, Numb 14:3 Israel and their children)
 - b. Youth challenge-Reach drug addicts
 - c. We were the troubled young people (Rom 8:29... likeness of his son)
 - d. Roommate at Bible college (Billy Graham, Mother Theresa)
Small group leader reminds you of someone who deeply hurt you
 - e. Don't commit yourself prematurely. Deal with past relationships!
 5. Questions for married people
 - a. What formed the basis of your marriage commitment?
 - b. Are you assured that God is for your marriage?
 - c. Have you fully committed yourself to your marriage

IV. Maintenance (Preserving)-Not waiting until it breaks down

- A. A relationship must be nurtured or it will die through neglect.
 1. It needs time, attention and priority (Time is like Oxygen)
How important is it?

“I don’t have time!” Meeting Vi in college

If you are going to be good in marriage, hunting, football...you have to make an investment and give it priority.

2. The relationship needs to be served
3. We need to lay down our lives
4. Some people are conquer-oriented (Husbands, pastors)

B. There are many occasions for misunderstanding

1. Understanding takes the longest (Four pillars: Love, trust, respect, understanding)
2. Communication is a key to maintenance

C. Scripture

Eph 4:1-3...being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
Gradual drift rather than catastrophic explosion. (Issue of a closed spirit)

D. Essential attitudes

Humility, openness, forgiveness, repentance, yieldedness

V. Ending or changing of a relationship. (High degree of vulnerability)

A. Examples

1. Ending of a dating relationship
2. Changes in friendship level or working relationship, geographic changes
3. Death of a loved one/death of a relationship
4. Divorce
5. Church splits

B. Factors to consider

1. Proper preparation helps
Jesus and His disciples (John 14, John 16:5, 16, 28)
2. The unexpected changes are hardest to accept-Involves pain, grief & loss
Loss of a young child by death
Unexpected divorce, “Dear John” letter, Financial loss
3. Recognition and acceptance of the change is vital-Fred Herzog, Daystar
People can feel abandoned, betrayed, or used, leads to resentment
Pain over termination can overshadow entire relationship
4. A proper good bye concludes a relationship-it lays it to rest & brings closure
People can live in a fantasy world-Value of Memorial Service, Room stays the same. Daddy’s chair.
We are not free to move on until the old is rightly settled (TCF)
Unfinished business/30 days of mourning for Moses (Rebound relationships)
5. Stages of grief-
 - a. Denial, b. Anger, c. Bargaining, d. Depression, e. AcceptanceIt takes time-Be patient! People can get stuck! Fluctuations.

VI. Response

- A. Which part of this lecture most applies to you?
- B. Discuss the basis for the commitments you have made in your life?
- C. Are there any relationships that ended and are still not properly resolved?
- D. Pray for each other.