

Transformed 3

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Genesis 2:18 (TLB) – ¹⁸ And the Lord God said, "It isn't good for man to be alone; I will make a companion for him, a helper suited to his needs.

This shows us that God was not enough. He made it so that our relational needs must be met by people. Because of that, you will be no happier than your "relational life."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (TLB) – ⁹ Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better. ¹⁰ If one falls, the other pulls him up; but if a man falls when he is alone, he's in trouble.

When a person experiences actual heart blockage, the heart will grow new blood vessels around a blocked one. Similarly, when we have "relational heart blockage", we "grow" alternative and "unhealthy" ways to meet our needs.

There is a "first" principle in relationships: give first and receive second. Relationships thrive only when the giving part is first and the receiving part is secondary.

When we fail to have our "relational needs" met as children and adolescents, we enter adult life putting receiving above our giving. When we demand that another person meets our needs first, it destroys the spirit of that relationship. We are designed by God to find greater joy and fulfillment in giving, than in receiving.

Romans 12:10 (MSG) – ¹⁰ Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

God is love and the primary action of love is to give.

John 3:16 (NIV) – ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Isaiah 9:6 – ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Until you operate like God, you will never experience "Relational Fulfillment."

John 12:24 (NIV/KJV) – ²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed and abides alone. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

John 15:13 (NIV) – ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

James 1:23-25 (NKJV) – ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Until you look into God's mirror and are made whole, you will demand that your relationships make you whole. Your relationships cannot support the weight of that demand. The health of your relationships are going to depend upon which mirror dominates your life (i.e. the mirror of your needs versus the mirror of God's Word).

How to stay in the mirror of God's Word:

- Have a daily devotional time
- Attend church weekly, not monthly (there is great stuff to learn here!)
- If you're married, attend the XO Conference February 10th and 11th
- Get in a small group
 - Wednesday Night Family Grow
 - Parent Wise
 - Blended Families
 - Use the small group finder on our website (groups.lifeatvictory.com/groups)

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV) – ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."