

Teaching - Part 1

Relational Maturity begins with God calling us into Stages and Spheres of Relationship

Personal relationship and human community

- “Hesed” and “Agape”
- Family, Tribe, Nation, Movement, Church
- Presence, Pleasure, Preference

Stages of relational maturity

- Dependence
- Independence
- Interdependence
- *Codependence*

The relational spheres of Jesus

- Jesus
- Peter, James, John
- Apostles
- Disciples
- Followers
- Crowds
- Opposition

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

(Genesis 2:18)

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it . .

(Genesis 1:28a)

“So between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by a gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in visible fellowship with other Christians.”

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, pg. 18)

And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.

(Mark 3:14-15)

“If that is true, if a powerful experience of God comes through others, then connecting plays a vital, indispensable, powerful role in effectively addressing the core issues of our souls. The issues that lie beneath all our personal, emotional and psychological problems.”

(Larry Crabb, *Connecting*, pg. 9)

Exercise 1



Broken Relationships (Genesis 3) and Spheres of Influence

Note the broken relationships and how you see them playing out today:

1. Man - God
2. Man - Self
3. Man - Women
4. Man - Creation

My Relational Spheres:

	Quantity	Quality
• _____		
• _____		
• _____		
• _____		
• _____		
• _____		
• _____		

Teaching - Part 2

Relational maturity requires developing relational skills while adding value in all directions

Social and Emotional Intelligence in . . .

- Roles
- Responsibilities
- Relationships

Mapping

- Biological
- Preferential
- Local
- Global

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

(Galatians 3:27-29)

"Spiritual transformation takes place incrementally over time, with others, in the context of disciplines and practices that open us to God . . . Our transformation will happen by degrees (2 Corinthians 3:18), and we need each other in order to grow (1 Corinthians 12)."

(Ruth Haley Barton, Life Together in Christ, pg. 13)

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

(James 2:8)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

(1 John 4:7)

"Here's the thing: loving people the way Jesus did either changes everything in us or it changes nothing. It can't just change a couple of things."

(Bob Goff, Everybody Always, pg. 214)

Exercise 2



Relational Map & Audit

- Where am I deepening connections and making relational investments?
- Do any particular relationships require healing, forgiveness, reconciliation?
- Am I adding value in each of these peoples lives?

