

Introduction: The deep desire of your soul

Relational desire: an intimate, life-giving, character-shaping relationship that has a rugged commitment to one another.

Question:

How in the world do we have that kind of relationship?

We live in a world overwhelmed with _____, yet starved for _____.

Relational Intelligence/Wisdom: The _____ of navigating relationships _____.

- It is NOT merely the _____ of _____.
- It is the proper _____ of the right _____.

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

The state of relationship in America

Marriage:

- There is growing pessimism in finding a love that will last a lifetime
- There are fewer and fewer people getting married
- 40-50% of marriages end in divorce

Friendship:

- We live in a socially connected time, but people are more disconnected than ever
- Americans are friendly but lonely (Barna)
- Gen Z is identified as the loneliest generation (Cigna)
- 1 out of 5 Americans have no person they can talk to

Family:

- The average family spends 37 minutes of quality time together
- The average adult spends 3 hours on social media per day
- *“Our kids are growing up experientially rich but relationally poor.”* – Andy Stanley

Dating:

- Half of all singles create a dating profile
- It is a casual, noncommittal, hookup dating culture
- The “rules” of dating are always shifting
- Gen Z and Millennials long to find a love that will last
- Only 9% of singles want to date casually

The challenge with relational intelligence

- It is _____.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

- It is _____.

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will find it.

Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV)

An American relational belief:

You have the _____ to go about relationships however you desire, and still get the _____ you desire.

The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps.

Proverbs 14:15 (NIV)

Relational Intelligence:

You may have the _____ to go about relationships however you desire, but you are not free to choose the _____ you desire.

Application:

If you continue taking these steps relationally, what is the _____?

“We all want progress, but if you’re on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive.”

C.S. Lewis

Discussion Questions:

1. What is relational intelligence? Why is it so challenging?
2. What did you learn about “relational intelligence” that was helpful to you? Explain.
3. Are the relational steps you are taking leading you to the right destination? Explain.
4. How will you specifically apply relational intelligence to your life today?