

# Relationships Have an Important Purpose

Relationships are networks of 2-way support. They are designed to keep us healthy because we were created to be in relationship with people (not animals or plants). I say "created", because we need to understand that there is a need for human relationship built into all of us and that need is required to be met. If it doesn't, the outworking of a relationship defect is ill health and ill thrift<sup>1</sup>.

Before addressing this, it's important to realise that our **primary relationship** that we have need for is with our Creator. The **second** is with a spouse, the **third** is with family, and the **fourth** is with friends and acquaintances. This is the order of relational priority. When this list is out of order or any component is missing, a level of ill thrift or mental ill health occurs.

Like other entities, relationships for sons follow the Kingdom principle of IPO (inputs, processes & outputs) – *What pours into us from the Kingdom is used for our well-being and is passed on to others.*



Example – Here's how IPO operates in the Kingdom in regard to mercy, as Father explains it:  
*"My grace has restored your soul, and your life's portion now overflows. I created you to be merciful to the guilty, gracious to the unworthy, and kind to those who mistreat you. Freely you have been given these virtues; now freely give them away and watch them multiply."<sup>2</sup>*

Safe to say, we need relationship to thrive. This is the 'processing' component of IPO. We instinctively take what we get from each relationship and use it to meet a specific emotional need that's been built into us.

What's poured into us through relationships is usually love, but there's so much more. Some of what relationships pour into us assists us to thrive emotionally and mentally – this is not common knowledge. Unless you study behavioural psychology, these will be unknown, just as it was with me. On top of those that are known by psychologists, you can bet there are ones that are undiscovered as yet.

Of course, our need for any type of relationship can be overridden by our will. The outcome of this decision may not be successful and we don't thrive. Many people are able to be successful at being alone, but usually only in the short to medium term. In the long-term, many show symptoms of relationship deprivation because of one or more areas where they lack one of the connections they need. We've all seen the symptoms but probably didn't recognise them as 'relationship ill thrift' manifesting as some level of mental illness.

Some examples of 'relationship ill thrift' are mean spinsters and sad widowers. This syndrome is manifesting today among young people who use social media as the major component of their connection with other people.<sup>3</sup>

We all know the benefits of our relationship with our mothers when we were toddlers. These mothering

1 – We don't thrive to the maximum

2 – Brian Simmons (25-2-2021) "I Hear His Whisper..."*"Freely pour out my mercy."*  
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3 – See "Social Media and Mental Health" [www.helpguide.org/articles/mental-health/social-media-and-mental-health.htm](http://www.helpguide.org/articles/mental-health/social-media-and-mental-health.htm)

ladies operate in storé love which is relational, ‘nest’ building, nurturing, affectionate, embracing and empathetic, to name just a few of the main characteristics.

What is missing these days is the relationship between fathers and their children. From the 1980s onwards, perceptive sociologists have labelled each new generation as “fatherless” because of the effects on society of World Wars I & II, the spiralling rate of divorce, the dominance of casual sex, short-term de facto relationships, and the effects of the individualism movement of the 1960s. Proper fathering is greatly needed today. An essential feature of good fathering is the stability and order that it creates in families which produces more balanced and society-fit children through their relationships. Another essential part of good fathering that is missing, and has been for quite a few generations, is the affirmation of a father for all his children which releases them into adulthood because they know who they are and that they are valued.

When the benefits that relationships provide are missing in our lives because our relationship circle is not complete or functioning properly, we substitute for them in other ways. Like animals eating a copper-deficient diet who lick brass door hinges and copper objects to get the copper they need, we know when something is missing and we instinctively look for ways to alleviate the ‘pain’ that the deficit causes. This can mean alleviating the feeling that ‘something’s missing’ through adultery, loose sex, clubbing, pornography, gambling, gossiping, doing lots of good deeds, being over generous in many ways, attention-seeking, etc. Teachers see lots of manifestations in the classroom and playground exhibited by children with a relational deficiency, especially when it’s a love deficit.

What does all this mean for us in the Kingdom?

- **Firstly**, we must get our relational priorities right (see the list on the first page).
- **Secondly**, we must remain in relationship with members of an *ekklesia*
- **Thirdly**, we must connect with like-minded believers
- **Fourthly**, we must ensure believers who we are connected with have their relationship needs met by us at one level or another (where appropriate)
- **Fifthly**, fathers need to relate properly to their children so they are in a position to affirm them each time it’s required (This also includes apostolic leaders affirming and releasing sons into their destiny)
- **Lastly**, we need to pass on Father’s love in a relational, caring way to everyone we meet.

It is selfish to receive relational benefits and not pass them on.



The Kingdom always gives to us freely, and we need to freely give away whatever we receive after we use it, and that’s has to be with an ‘open hand’.

Laurence

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)