

Looking
for Love

Looking for Love

GEORGE BLOOMER



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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**LOOKING FOR LOVE:
BUILDING RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS IN A
NOT-SO-RIGHT WORLD**

(Based on *When Loving You Is Wrong, But I Want To Be Right*, © 1997)

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Introduction

God has blessed me with the responsibility of delivering an essential message to the church concerning relationships, one of the most important areas of the natural lives of men and women throughout the world. I would like to share with you some of the many insights, revelations, and problem-solving truths He has caused me to recognize about this vital, but often little-understood, aspect of being human.

Somewhere, at some time, because of an intimate relationship, each of us was conceived in the flesh, birthed into sin, and enabled to become the functioning males and females we are today. We are all involved in relationships with other people. Although the number of established connections varies from person to person, none of us is an isolated hermit. In addition, relationships differ from one another in their degree of intimacy; familiarity can range from “just passing acquaintances” to “my one and only true love, my soul mate.” Needless to say, acquaintanceships are

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much easier to make and maintain than very close connections.

Most people throughout the world at least acknowledge that a Supreme Being is the Maker of mankind. Almost all—saint and sinner alike—also admit that we need help and instruction in perfecting our personal, more intimate relationships. Where we seek that help, however, distinguishes the saint from the sinner. This particular book is addressed to and written for the edification of the church: those redeemed men and women everywhere who not only recognize, but also revere, the holy God as the one and only Creator of mankind; who have acknowledged their sinfulness and have offered repentance to His Son, Jesus, the one and only Savior of men's souls; who know Jesus as their personal Savior and Redeemer because He paid their sin-debt in full on the cross; and who, having given their hearts to God, also want to dedicate their minds and bodies, which are the vehicles for and the substance of their personal relationships.

Although the church is a spiritual entity, it is comprised of natural elements—flesh and blood, you and me—all trying to combine and unite together as the body of Christ. As flesh-and-blood human beings who are highly prone to error, we often operate our romantic relationships through our carnal natures. Doing so can create unhappy and unsuccessful situations, and our God-ordained service to others is negatively affected as a result.

While many Christians do abide in healthy, positive, productive relationships, many of us—perhaps too many of us—do not. As it now stands, members of the church are spotted with the plague of forbidden relationships: those

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person-to-person, body-to-body, and soul-to-soul unions that are not sanctioned by God. Such unions are the intimate and potentially intimate relations between consenting adults that simply do not bear the Lord's seal of approval.

Forbidden relationships are found in the majority of the unfruitful, unsaved lives of the earth's men and women. They should not, however, mark Christ's church. The evidence that they do is found in the abundance of problem-ridden unions and troubled marriages, as well as the open display of unconfessed sexual sins within circles of God's people. By being able to know and recognize the symptoms and signposts of forbidden relationships in our midst, we can help prevent the sin and fatal consequences of individuals' unrighteous living from affecting and infecting the collective body of Christ.

If the truth were told, most of us have experienced the pain and suffering of at least one bad relationship at one time or another in our lives. Notwithstanding, the liberating truth is that wholesome, strong, and fruitful unions can and will be ours when we learn to attract godly people into our lives. This only happens as we follow the guidelines of the infallible Word of God.

Even if God has graced you with a healthy, committed relationship, this book is still for you. Read on, and allow it to make you aware of the biblical origins of bad relationships, what God's Word says concerning these relationships, what it is that makes your own union successful, and how you can help others to be as blessed as you are.

God is the only perfect being, and we know that we, with our sinful natures, will not achieve perfection on earth in any relationship. However, this is no excuse not to strive for

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better, more harmonious relations with our fellowmen—and especially those fellowmen we call boyfriend, girlfriend, partner, spouse, mate, and fiancé(e).

Read and learn to follow God's prescription for relationships.

—George G. Bloomer

Part I

The Amazing Maze Called Love



Why We Love to Love, and Why It's So Hard

Chapter One

Why We Love to Love, and Why It's So Hard

Whether you're married, divorced, dating often, or not dating at all, I think you'll agree that relationships are not easy. It seems that each person has more than he or she can handle in navigating this crazy life without throwing another person into the mix, especially a person with whom you're supposed to "be one." How are you supposed to preserve your individuality and yet support, love, and become one with someone else? And where is this special someone to be found anyway?

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Despite the numerous complications a committed relationship entails, we all long to have that special kind of union with another human being in which we truly know and are known by each other. We desire that this knowledge be intimate, perceptive, total, and complete—a deep heart knowledge. We desperately want to be accepted, loved, and cherished for who we really are, in spite of our flaws and imperfections. Built into the human condition is a longing not to have to play games by pretending to be someone we are not; we want to be able to be authentic with at least one other person and still be loved. Moreover, we want our Mr. and Ms. Rights to be our perfect counterparts, loving and accepting us unselfishly and eternally.

The need for intimacy is woven into the fabric of our lives; we can't make it disappear by praying it away, by willing it to leave, or by ignoring it.

That concept, with slight personal variations, is the image of the ideal relationship we each carry deep inside. Why do we desire it? Because God has designed us to be relational beings. The need for intimacy is woven into the fabric of our lives; we can't make it disappear by praying it away or by willing it to leave or by ignoring it. Each of us must come to terms with this aspect of life and with how to meet this burning desire for relational fulfillment legitimately, no matter what our marital status may be.

That being said, let me remind you that it is not easy. But, then again, no one ever said it would be. After all, the

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first committed relationship ever (Adam and Eve's) took a nosedive that has caused every generation to be born into sin, incapable of pure love.

Who Said It Would Be Easy?

As we delve into this timely topic, let us take a look at the very first record the Bible gives of a relationship deemed unacceptable in the eyes of God—a relationship with sin. Although this first forbidden relationship took place thousands of years ago, it still has repercussions for us today.

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:1–6)

We find in Genesis that the very first sin was the one Adam and Eve committed when they both ate of the forbidden fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. We all know the story, many of us having learned it as children in Sunday school. But, when reading this passage, how often do we consider that Adam and Eve's sin

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began sometime before Eve took that first bitter bite and Adam thoughtlessly followed her sinful lead?

In the first verse of the text, we read, “*And [the Serpent] said to the woman,*” and in the second verse, “*And the woman said to the serpent.*” Here in this initial verbal exchange, the discerning spiritual eye can see a catastrophe about to take place. Eve, the mother of humanity, had begun at this very point to enter into a definite, certain relationship with sin. How? By merely conversing with the Serpent!

Where was Adam while all this conversing was taking place? Why didn’t he warn Eve not to engage in conversation with Satan, not to flirt with temptation? He was not there to provide wise counsel or to prevent her from speaking with the Serpent, though it is doubtful that he would have been much help if he had been there. After all, Eve didn’t need to do much convincing to get him to eat some of the tempting fruit as well.

And so, through the bait of conversation, Satan convinced Eve, and thus Adam, to bite into the forbidden fruit. Before we examine exactly how it was that the woman partook of the fruit, let us first determine why it was that Eve even took a chance on exchanging pleasantries with the Devil in the first place.

In the beginning of our text, we read, “*Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made*” (Genesis 3:1 KJV). The word “*subtle*” is defined by *Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary* as “highly skillful, artful, crafty, difficult to understand or distinguish, obscure, crafty, highly skillful, operating insidiously.” Certainly, we Christians

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know Satan to be all of these things—skillfully clever, crafty, sly, insidious, hard to detect, and so on.

On Satan's first day of business with this new creature, Man—and more precisely, Woman—he was, no doubt, on his best demonic behavior! With the very same tactics he employs today to tempt and trick God's people, the Enemy set out to ruin Eve. As a maneuvering serpent, he was slick, seductive, quick-witted, smooth-talking, cunning, and quietly aggressive. But, more than any of his outer charms, Satan used conversation as a weapon against Eve. He smooth-talked her into communicating with him, questioning God, influencing Adam to sin, and, ultimately, disobeying God.

For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

(Genesis 3:5–6)

And the result was that every person from then until the Judgment Day has been and will be born with sin. It is in our nature to disobey and reject God. And if it is so much a part of our natures to be at odds with our loving Creator, how much more is it a part of our natures to confuse and upset our relationships with other humans?

It is in our nature to disobey and reject God.

Relationships are difficult and sometimes destructive because that is human nature. Because of Adam and Eve's

first relationship with sin, every relationship that followed was tainted, this includes ours today. Stemming out of that one error is all our imperfect love. All our self-love and pride can be traced back to our first representatives on earth and the tragic decision they made.

We're Not Improving Things

That isn't the end of the story though. Society today continues to degrade and deteriorate when it comes to romantic attachments. Adam and Eve left the garden, yes, but they left in a committed, God-sanctioned relationship. Today, that type of relationship is hard to come by. Homosexuality, fornication, and adultery run rampant and confuse the true meaning of relationships even further.

God gave the gift of sexuality for the purpose of pleasure and reproduction within the covenant bonds of marriage. Satan, however, has sought to distort the purity of such a bond and to destroy lives by warping and perverting the work of God. Just look at all of the news stories today regarding great leaders involved in perverse or immoral sexual acts. Read the statistics about teen pregnancy and abortion. Look around and see how many marriages end in divorce. All this was obviously not God's original intention, but our perversion of His perfect provision for us.

God's Intention versus Our Perversion

God desires that the strongest and most intimate relationship any of His children have with another human being be the marriage union. Because He designed marriage as the foundation for all other societal structures, the marital

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unit needs to have the most strength so that it can stand up under the negative pressures and forces of this world.

To help form and fortify the bond between a husband and a wife, and thus strengthen their marriage, God created the most effective glue known—sexual intimacy. Sex was designed by God not just as the means of producing offspring, but more basically as the bonding agent to unite two individuals together on all levels—body-to-body, soul-to-soul, and spirit-to-spirit.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

(Genesis 2:24)

God designed sex to be very pleasurable physically and emotionally so that it would have an addictive quality to it. The better a behavior makes us feel, the more we repeat it; so the more a couple engages in the delights and pleasures of sexual intimacy, the more the soul tie between them is intensified and the stronger the marriage bond becomes. Because sexual intimacy exponentially reinforces the soul-tie bonds between the partners, sexual relations are to be kept strictly within the confines of the marriage union.

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

(Hebrews 13:4)

God isn't the cruel Judge that some think He is. After all, He is the Designer of our sexuality in the first place. He just designated boundaries—for our good.

As commanded by God in His Word, sex outside of marriage is illegal, and breaking this law can have phenomenal

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repercussions. Sexual involvement can form such an entangling web of soul ties that certain relationships became nearly impossible to break away from. Like powerful, mature tree roots, multiple soul ties can often reach deep into an individual's personality and spirit, becoming a part of his or her very being.

God isn't the cruel Judge that some think He is. He just designated boundaries—for our good.

Furthermore, when a person engages in promiscuous sex, the soul of the practicing individual is divided and subsequently scattered among his or her multiple partners. This may appear to be especially true where women are concerned, because soul ties are so emotionally binding and women are particularly susceptible in the area of emotions. Thus, women have trouble severing the emotional cords to their sexual partners and will often attempt to reestablish the emotional bonds, no matter how detrimental they may be. The Bible declares that men are just as bound to their previous sex partners, even though it might not be as readily apparent since men tend not to exhibit the emotionalism women do about the breakup of an affair.

Do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh."
(1 Corinthians 6:16)

Men are often so strongly tied to their prior liaisons in their visual and physical memories that they will habitually try to repeat the sexual encounters.

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Frequently, the souls of people who have been promiscuous in sex are drawn to those of all their previous partners, even long after the relationships have ended. This can happen to such an extent that when these people marry, they often develop sexual and communication problems with their mates.

Undoing the Knot

After the knitting together of souls in an illegal rendezvous has taken place, a spiritual untying is required for deliverance. The Word of God tells us that we have the power both to bind and to loose.

And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
(Matthew 16:19)

It is of great importance that we loose every knot that has been illegally tied in our lives. The knitting together of two souls within a marriage can bring forth good fruit. However, any illicit ties or knots need to be broken. Pray the following prayer and believe in your heart that it will result in your being loosed from the snare of the soul tie.

Heavenly Father,
In the name of Jesus, I submit all of my soul, my body, my desires, and my emotions to You and Your Spirit. I denounce any conscious or subconscious attachments formed in my past: past involvements, past emotional attachments, and past premarital sexual relationships. I denounce the emotional, physical, and spiritual ties formed by my involvement in any forbidden sexual, mental, or emotional intimacy outside of my marriage. I confess all of my ungodly spirit, soul, and body ties

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as sin. I thank You for forgiving me and cleansing me of all unrighteousness, right now!

I loose myself from all soul ties to past sexual partners and ungodly relationships. Please uproot all connections through sexual bondage, sexual deviations, emotional longings, dependencies, perversions, and enslaving thoughts and fantasies. I bind every evil spirit that reinforced the soul tie and any evil transference into my life through ungodly associations.

Lord, I ask You to cleanse my soul and to erase totally from my memory bank all illicit unions that I participated in. Set me free so that I may serve only the purposes of God and my mate.

Father, now that I have asked You this and know it is in accordance with Your will for my life, I believe I am totally forgiven and set free. I recommit myself to You and my mate, in Jesus' name. Amen

If you prayed this prayer with genuineness and sincerity, you are now starting a clean slate with God and your spouse or spouse-to-be. Get ready for an explosively wonderful relationship.

Defining a True Relationship

Most of us define a true relationship in terms of knowing and being known, accepting and being accepted, loving and being loved, while often emphasizing such additional components as commitment, communication, romance, and chemistry. Yet, in our attempts to find and establish our dream friendships and unions, we have taken forbidden, fruitless sidetracks that lead to dead ends instead of staying on the path that *“leads to life”* (Matthew 7:14), the path that God has specifically planned for each one of us.

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Often, we have gone off in the opposite direction from the way God wants us to travel as we try to fill the aching void in our hearts through a relationship with another person. We have searched for the missing pieces of our souls in other imperfect, flawed individuals, who generally respond to us from positions of neediness as well. We have failed to heed God's map and the directions He has carefully written out for us to follow. He has told us exactly where we can find our wholeness and how our desires can be met:

Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

(Psalm 37:4–5)

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

(Matthew 6:33)

When the Spirit of the Lord draws two people together, you can be assured that the relationship will be “a match made in heaven.”

Most of us define a true relationship in terms of knowing and being known, accepting and being accepted, loving and being loved.

Read on to discover God's starting point for your journey toward fulfilling relationships. As you learn to build and foster the relationships in your life so that they develop into fabulous ones, may God smile upon you in His infinite love and transform your world in His righteousness.