

Introduction

Relationships.

When I was a kid growing up in the heart of the TV generation, I saw lots of different ideas of relationships. I guess, most of what I watched were cartoons where the relationships were quite silly, but definitely the most important thing to Pe Pe Le PEW, and some of the other characters. You also had Daisy Duke who never really had many “relationships”, she would just use the potential of one as a distraction long enough to get the Duke boys away from Rosco! Then later in life, there were all the movies that had at least *one* “love story” as part of the plot.

What’s the deal? Is it really that important that it’s even in the cartoons?!?!

Yes.

In Genesis, it was so important that a creation that God had called “good”, and a man that God had called “very good” were seen as lacking until God created a partner - the *perfect* partner - for man; woman.

Relationships, especially the greatest possible human relationship between a man and a woman, permeate everything in our culture... maybe in every culture. Movies, books, TV shows, school yards, *everything!* From the time we’re two until we’ve found a spouse (and even after that!) - relationships are an essential part of who we are.

James says that every good and perfect gift is from the Lord (James 1:17) and it’s true, a godly, marital relationship between a man and a woman is good and perfect. (Proverbs 18:22, 19:14) But, Satan is

really good at taking what God has made perfect and offering us a twisted version of that. The Bible says he “masquerades as an angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14) - making what he wants us to see look as good and righteous and perfect as the real thing... but it’s not.

When is a good thing not good?

When there’s something better!

We would like to present in this book, an idea from Scripture that can give you the best relationships you can have. God designed us, and for that reason, he knows us best! (Psalm 139) We’re going to take a look at some truths from the Bible and at some real life applications - and *failed* applications - and try to figure out what is the *best* possible way - God’s *designed way* - for a male/female relationship to work.

Don’t get the wrong idea with this book. We are not intending to use this to belittle people, to judge people, to put *anybody* down. We are assuming that if you picked this book up, **YOU** are searching for the *best* way to relate to the opposite sex... and you think that way is God’s way. That’s great. This book is designed to teach the searching heart a truth from our Creator, laid out in Scripture, that will heal a lot of hurts. Use it for you - don’t try to force it on people who don’t want to hear it. It is definitely a “radical” idea considering how far our culture has come from the God’fearing nation that we once were. Read the book, pray about the ideas herein, and ask God to help you really know His plan for *you!*

The book will be in two sections: Our plan and God’s plan.

[an explanation of the layout and “thanks” to help will go here]