**Relationships**

**Affirmation: “Christ of my being, I acknowledge Your presence within me, and I allow You to harmonize all of my relationships. Help me to see the Christ in all others and to know that I am truly one with them and they are one with me.” *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 312)***

**All relationships are with yourself -- and sometimes they involve other people. *(John-Roger & Peter McWilliams, in Do It!, p. 199)***

**Cold-blooded Devotion: Like most reptiles, alligators tend to live a solitary existence. But during spring mating season, according to research conducted in Louisiana, they appear to resume long-term relationships. A ten-year genetic study of adults and offspring revealed that even though males and females often mated with multiple partners during any given season, many pairs reunited year after year. *(Amanda Benson, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**The easiest kind of relationship for me is with ten thousand people. The hardest is with one. *(Joan Baez)***

**First woman: “I realize everybody brings baggage into a relationship.” Second woman: “But Big Daddy had baggage plus carry-ons!” *(Chris Browne, in Raising Duncan comic strip)***

**Woman: “I'm sorry, but nothing about you attracts me.” Man: “They say that the thing that first attracts you to a person is the thing you end up hating about them. Maybe what we have here is the basis for a solid relationship.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**The Harvard Study of Adult Development, which has followed more than 700 participants and their descendants for more than 85 years, has yielded one overarching finding: It’s not how smart you are, how many promotions you get or how much money you make that best predicts happiness. It’s the quality of your relationships with others. (Elizabeth Svoboda, in Discover magazine)**

**On the spiritual level as well, we are linked to one another. In light of this, the answer to Cain's “Am I my brother's keeper?” (Genesis 4:9) becomes not “I am my brother's keeper” but “I am my brother,” for we are all one. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 310)***

**Someone has to give way. There is a rule in sailing that the more maneuverable ship should give way to the less maneuverable craft. I think that is sometimes a good rule to follow in human relationships as well. *(Dr. Joyce Brothers)***

**What is the secret of getting along with others? Surely it lies in the one word consideration. If we consider the happiness, comfort, feelings of others, our behavior cannot be of the kind which will create friction and strife. Automatically we shall be helpful, sympathetic, tolerant and respectful. These qualities constitute the lubricant which ensures the smooth running of every human contact. Success in the sphere of human relationships crowns, beautifies and justifies success in every other. *(Robert J. Lumsden)***

**Pickles: “There’s just something about cowboy boots that sets them apart from shoes. There’s a bond, a relationship. They’re not just footwear. They’re mates. They’re companions. In fact, I think I’d like to be buried in these boots. Wife: “You got it.” Pickles: “I didn’t mean right away, though.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**The formula for achieving a successful relationship: You should treat all disasters as if they were trivialities, but never treat a triviality as if it were a disaster. *(Quentin Crisp)***

**If a relationship can be destroyed because someone tried to resolve its problems, it had to be an unhealthy one to begin with. *(David Lawrence)***

**Where there are no differences between mates, there must be a lot of indifference. *(Eric Butterworth, Unity Minister, in The Commitment of Love)***

**Do you really enjoy this person, or do you enjoy yourself through the instrumentality of the person? The first is the enjoyment of love; the second is the enjoyment of lust. *(Eric Butterworth, Unity Minister, in The Commitment of Love)***

**Lars: “I think a good relationship is one in which the two of you are so close, you finish each other's sentences.” Al: “I think a good relationship is one in which your sentence is commuted by the governor.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Forgiveness is the oil of relationships. *(Josh McDowell)***

**Now that you and I have found each other, why are we still so far apart? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Relationships should be treated like a full time job. If your significant other wants to leave you, they should give two weeks’ notice, and before they leave you, they should have to find you a temp. *(Bob Ettinger)***

**Your relationship with God is one thing you should take personally. *(From 101 Simple Secrets to Keep Your Faith Alive, compiled by Betsy Williams)***

**Trying to find successful ways of dealing with people according to their personality traits is futile and time-consuming, and it puts the emphasis on outer characteristics rather than where it belongs, which is on the inner. Imagine all of the time and mental effort we save when we don't have to figure out what words to say to appease someone or quench a fiery outburst or soften a hateful attitude. There is a much easier way to handle relationships and that is not to “handle” them at all. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 307)***

**Human relationships are vast as deserts. They demand all daring. *(Patrick White, Australian writer)***

**Never give children a chance of imagining that anything exists in isolation. Make it plain from the very beginning that all living is relationships. Show them relationships in the woods, in the field, in the ponds and streams, in the village and in the country around it. Rub it in. *(Aldous Huxley)***

**Closest and most enduring human relationship appears to be that of identical twins. That’s what some psychologists say a huge body of data is suggesting. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves. *(Carl G. Jung)***

**Woman says to man: “I know we’ve only just met, but I feel like I’ve known you all my life and everything you do drives me up the wall.” *(Dan Piraro, in Bizarro comic strip)***

**Is there a relationship which has you upset or frustrated or depressed? It doesn't matter if it's with a spouse, a child, an acquaintance, a relative, or a friend. If you want it to improve, the method is the same: lift yourself up in consciousness. Lift yourself out of any negative emotions and reactions and become aware of the presence of God within you. It is as simple as that! The reason it always works is because when you feel this Presence, it will automatically be communicated from that level in you to the same Presence in the other person. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 310)***

**Husband: “I’m sorry.” Wife: “Me too.” Husband: “You know, we’re like honey and water. You’re a honey, and I’m always in hot water.” *(Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)***

[**Lola and the older man are sitting on separate park benches very close to each other. The older man says: “Boy, these long-distance relationships are tough.” Lola then says: “And stay over there, Cecil!” *(Steve Dickenson & Todd Clark, in Lola comic strip)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**Losing Sleep Can Snooze Our Relationships: According to a Swedish study, after one night of no sleep, participants were more likely to interpret an angry face as less trustworthy than rested folks were. They also rated neutral and fearful faces as less attractive. This is because people spent less time analyzing facial expressions after a sleepless night, which could lead them to misinterpret the faces or overreact to them. Unfortunately, when we do this, it can lead us to withdraw socially. So next time you’re feeling sensitive in this way, it’s probably time for a nap. *(Mark Witten, in the December, 2022/January, 2023 issue, on page 38***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)***)***

[**Helga says to her daughter: “Women love to shop! Men hate to shop! This is known as a love-hate relationship.” *(Chris Browne, in Hagar The Horrible comic strip)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

**The most profound relationship we’ll ever have is the one with ourselves. *(Shirley MacLaine)***

[**Woman to friend: “Stanley and I have a magical relationship – whenever I ask him to do something, he disappears.” *(Harris, Cowles Syndicate)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**Boyfriend: “You know, Holly, we actually make a pretty good couple. You’re amazing. And I’m amazed.” *(Tom Batiuk, in Funky Winkerbean comic strip)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

**Sister is probably the most competitive relationship within the family, but once the sisters are grown, it becomes the strongest relationship. *(Margaret Mead)***

[**My mind and body are in close communication, but have never established a good working relationship. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**The most important thing in a relationship between a man and a woman is that one of them be good at taking orders. *(Linda Festa)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**Gloria: “I think we should take this relationship to the next level, Lance.” Lance: “Up or down?” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**Frank**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)**: “Your girlfriends broke up with you just because you use cheap batteries?” Ernest: “She said she can't stand on-again, off-again relationships.” *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

[**Recognize that the person or event you think caused pain is only a stimulus that surfaced what was already there. Once more you have been given the opportunity to heal. Don't miss it! Again! *(Michael Ryce)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**It is seldom indeed that one parts on good terms, because if one were on good terms, one would not part. *(Marcel Proust)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**I hope surgery won’t be necessary in order to repair our relationship. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**A love and War counselor, not our own, sells the service with this suggestion: “Instead of getting rid of your partner and keeping the problem, get rid of the problem and keep your partner.” (*L. M. Boyd)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**It is not in finding the right person, but in being the right person that leads to the fulfillment in love. *(Dr. Eric Butterworth, in Unity magazine)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**If you’re in a good relationship, chances are you’re bored out of your mind. *(Chris Rock)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**A romantic relationship is a sort of delusion between two people*. (Sheila Heti, writer)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

**My wife and I have had a very simple relationship through the years. I rule the roost and she rules the rooster. *(Orben’s Current Comedy)***

[**Ever since Winston Churchill used the phrase “special relationship” to describe British-U.S. ties, said Nicholas Watt in The Guardian, it has been invoked by “prime ministers of all hues.” But this week, Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee declared the phrase “potentially misleading’ and recommended that it be scrapped. In a report on Anglo-American ties, the committee said the phrase had contributed to the “perception that the British government was a subservient poodle to the U.S.” in the run-up to the invasion of Iraq, when Prime Minister Tony Blair was widely seen as having supported President Bush’s ill-conceived war while getting nothing in return. From now on, the committee said, Britain should be “less deferential and more willing to say no to the U.S. on those issues where the two countries’ interests and values diverge.” *(The Week magazine, April 9, 2010)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**One says to another: “I read somewhere that nothing boosts your self-esteem more than a stable relationship. So I bought a horse.” *(Jeff MacNelly, in Shoe comic strip***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**Great relationships take form when they are stretched to the breaking point and do not break. *(Philip Yancey)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**Woman: “You know, Norman, you spend all day talking to people about their relationships, yet I can’t get you to talk about ours. What’s the difference?” Norman: “A hundred dollars an hour.” *(J. C. Duffy, in Go Figure comic strip)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**When you look at relationships that make it, the people are good friends and treat each other with respect; they have shared values and they trust one another. Trust is the foundation. Without it, you don’t feel safe. If you don’t feel safe, you can’t be vulnerable. If you’re not vulnerable, you can’t be intimate. *(Lonnie Barbach, in Chicago Tribune)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**Do you feel trapped in a painful relationship with no way out because of finances, family expectations or your own insecurities? You may feel trapped, but you are free to make good choices for your own health and happiness. Your choices may cause pain or hardship, but pain and hardship are temporary. The benefits of unlocking your rage and throwing away the key far outlast the temporary difficulties that come with change. You can choose to be lonely for a while. You can choose to live more frugally. You can choose to make others responsible for their own happiness by becoming responsible for your own happiness. The difficulties or heartaches that arise from tough but necessary choices will pass. And all your choices can be reversed, if that is what turns out to be best for you. Believing you are trapped is fear, not a fact. *(Alice May, in Surviving Betrayal: Hope and Help for Women Whose Partners Have Been Unfaithful)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**Our relationship could get you into a lot of trouble, but aren’t I worth it? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**The ultimate test of a relationship is to disagree but to hold hands. *(Quoted by Alexandra Penney, in Self)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**When your mate isn’t talking to you, he or she is usually in no mood to be interrupted. *(Bits & Pieces)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

**Why is it kids can never relate to the people they’re related to? *(Roger Bollen)***

[**Assumptions are the termites of relationships. *(Henry Winkler, actor)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

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