



Control (tribal/expectations)

Wrong Attitudes

- I'll arrange my life so that the control is effective.
- Everyone has to play by my rules or I don't play.
- I'm strong and proud of it, so I should be in control.
- If people don't change the way I expect, I'll cast them aside...(make them suffer).

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- We'll have a joint checking account and I'll write all the checks.
- I expect you to move if I get a promotion.
- I work, you look after the house and kids; and if I let you work, that's okay, too. We'll put the money you make in a savings account for the kid's education.
- I always pick out the new car. I know more about it than you do.
- I'll plan the vacations because I do so much better at it than you do.
- I'll yell at my kid when he's playing ball until he cries. I'm going to make him do it my way--the right way!
- If people don't do what I expect, I'll play on their emotions until they feel guilty.

Mature Response

1. Transfer my rights to God. [I Pet 2:21-23]
 - a) Use them to advance God's work and serve others (not control them). [Mt 25:14-29]
 - b) Understand that God will work for my good. [Rom 8:28]
 - c) Thank God in advance -- whatever the outcome. [I Thess 5:18]
 - d) Expect God to test His rights...
...don't negotiate with God. Abraham gave up Isaac. [Jms 1]
[Gen 22]
2. Focus on the spiritual qualities that God is seeking to develop in me. Trust Him for...
 - a) material security [Mt 6]
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Functioning instead of Emotionally Relating

Wrong Attitudes

- Emotionally relating is for sissies, so I'll avoid it because I'm a man.
- I don't see any value in just relating; it's a waste of valuable time.
- My father and I worked together but never related, so I concluded that men don't need to relate.
- Relating is awkward, and like gossiping, it's superficial.

Wrong Actions

- I earn the money to buy the house, to educate the kids, etc. I am a good provider.
- I'm busy fixing things. I don't have time to relate.
- Talking while I am working at something is okay, because I am accomplishing something.
- Vacations are to be productive... "We'll all paint the house together as a family!"

Mature Response

1. Realize that my self-worth is not based on my ability to function but on how God views me.

[Prov 3:5-6; Phil 4:6]

2. God's priorities are:

a) loving Him with all my heart, soul, strength, and mind.

b) loving my neighbor (others) as myself

[Luke 10:27]

Therefore, relating lovingly is of primary importance.

3. Change my inner-motivation from self-protection through functioning to love. Realize that functioning without relating is totally incompatible with agape love because loving is relating.

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