

THE SNARE OF UNDEFINED RELATIONSHIPS.

The biggest snare of a Christian lies in the varied relationships s/he negotiates with. The danger is multiplied if that person is involved in ministry.

I have already written about relationships

(<http://yearningofmyfathersheart.blogspot.in/2012/09/forging-strong-relationships.html>).

But this is an area about which I think much and often. Again as always I turn to the Word of God for direction and guidance. What a wonderful book this Bible is! It has answers for everything.

What do I mean by undefined relationships?

Let me try to answer this by discussing defined relationships.

Defined relationships have a mutually accepted unwritten rules.

Say for example, if it is a husband and wife we all know what the relationship is like.

We expect them to be loyal to one another, share everything, not to betray each other to other person etc.

In the same way we also know how a parent child relationship operates.

Children are supposed to treat their parents with respect, obey them, love them and parents provide for their children, clothe them, educate them, care for them when they fall sick and so on.

The same goes for a brother sister relationship. There are so many silly things we laugh about , things which we may not share with our parents.

When we see the three sets of relationships mentioned above, we see there are some things very unique to a specific relationship.

Husband wife relationship is different from parent child and sibling relationship.

When it comes to blood ties, we naturally know how to relate to each other. What to speak to and whom to speak and what to speak etc..

The relationship becomes offtrack, when we call a senior friend as elder brother and when we speak things that we would not normally talk to an elder brother.

The same way, young girls tend to look at older men as father figure and call them appa or father, but the relationship slowly becomes undefined when they start

confiding certain things with them which they normally would not tell a biological father.

Then the relationship becomes incongruous.

Young boys look at mature women as elder sisters and after sometime they speak to them what they normally would not speak to their elder sister related by blood, then slowly something will go beserk in that relationship.

Why do you think I discuss so much on this?

By the grace of God, I've been in ministry for quite some time and I've watched beautiful relationships go wretchedly wrong and people get so trapped in them, that they do not know what to do with that. They are so hurt and just cannot trust to love anyone again.

They try to get married after all the relationship mishaps, but somehow the trauma accompanies.

Undefined relationships is a typical phenomenon of this fractured post modern world.

How would you define a facebook friend?

What do you call a woman friend or a man friend after your marriage?

Ok however you call them, what do you speak to them?

Where are the borders?

Do you discuss your wife or husband with a friend of opposite sex?

Beware you are wading into dangerous uncharted waters.

One of my friends told me about a couple where the husband spent more time speaking to a friend at the office than with his wife. The couple eventually split.

Next if you are a young person and need help from mature people, do not idealize them. Especially in the mold of elder brother, elder sister, father etc...

Usually in the case of an undefined relationship, you'll not go with the other person in public or be comfortable with each other before others.

So many instances of temptations, began very harmlessly like a he-is-my- annan(elder brother) or she- is -my-akka(elder sister) or Oh-he-is-like-the-father- I - never-had.

Personally from my life, I have learnt the hard way that the one father is the one who fathered you biologically. But if he is dead or gone away or too abusive, only God, GOD ALONE can take his place. Do not substitute any man in the place of your biological father. Only the Father of the fatherless can fill that place.

Beware of emotional manipulations. These kind of undefined relationships, even if they do not develop into unhealthy relationships, may suck you dry emotionally. You may become so dependent on that 'anna' or 'akka' or 'appa' that one day you would feel mightily cheated when they cannot match your expectation of that relationship.

In some cases if the other end has ulterior motives, they will keep you emotionally hooked on your vulnerability and your love for them.

Finally love a father as a father, love a sister as a sister, love your wife or husband as a wife or husband, love an elder brother as an elder brother.

Do not confuse the rules of the game. Do not love somebody's father as your father. It just wouldn't work.

Haven't you heard stories of loving your friend's elder brother as your brother and eventually falling in love?

Don't misplace love on wrong relationships.

Before you put your love, put your honour, put your heart in a relationship, check the vessel. A dirty vessel, will spoil the beauty of innocence. Remember the verse,

Ecclesiastes 10:1 (NASB) ¹Dead flies make a perfumer's oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom *and* honor.

One of the most painful heartaches in the world is when pure love is abused and used for selfish purposes.

Dear friend be careful what kind of relationships you forge.

One thing I've learnt in my life, is that when our relationship with God is on the right track, God will give us the wisdom to keep a right track with other relationships as well.

Look to God, learn love from Him, and love others.

God bless.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppEE84ZoNHA>

