

Who's Number One?

What are your expectations of the relationship?

How are you prioritizing the relationship?

Jesus answered him, “Love the Lord your God with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being, and with every thought that is within you.” Matthew 22:37 (TPT)

Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. Philippians 2:3 (NIRV)

God is number 1. Others are number 2. You are number 3.

If you love your kids, prioritize your marriage.

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one. Genesis 2:24 (GNT)

azab = “leaves, let loose, set free” *dabaq* = “united, keep close, stick with”

But build one another up every day. Do it as long as there is still time. Then none of you will become stubborn. You won't be fooled by sin's tricks. Hebrews 3:13 (NIRV)

When you think something good, say it.

Don't complain about what the other person is not.

If you want the relationship to be different, you become different.

Say “no” to less important things so you may say “yes” to more important things.

Talk About It

1. In general, how would you describe your relationships? What do you think of that?
2. What are your expectations of relationships?
3. How are you at prioritizing your relationships? What do you think of that?
4. In order, what are your highest priority relationships at this time? How would you like that to change? What are several things that are getting in the way of you making that change? What is something specifically you will do about that?
5. What do you think of the idea that if parents love their kids, they will prioritize their marriage relationship before their relationship with their kids?

6. What are some consequences you've seen of parents giving a higher priority to a relationship with their kids than their relationship with a spouse?
7. What do you think of the idea that it's often not something bad that ruins a relationship; often it's something good that's not in the right priority? Give some examples.
8. What do you think of the practice—when you think something good, say it? What are some reasons you might not do this?
9. What do you think of the practice—don't complain about what the other person is not?
10. What do you think of the relational principle—if you want a relationship to be different, you become different?
11. How do you think you're doing in saying “no” to less important things so you may say “yes” to more important things?