Running head: HAVING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships: A Work in Progress?

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Abstract

People are trying to reinvent relationships with the hope of finding one that fits their purposes. Relationships have been around for a long time. Rather than following tried and true principles, people are wandering out on their own to search for something new. People are trying to satisfy their desires. Selfishness, or wanting to do things their own way, causes people to look in the wrong places to fulfill this desire. People end up getting hurt, or just end up settling for less than what is possible in their relationships. Doing things a better way, though no guarantees for success, can make your odds of having the type of relationship that works for both parties more obtainable.

**Outline**

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| **Introduction** | People get involved in different types of relationships for many reasons. The problem with these relationships is that they cannot realize their full potential since they are going against principles that have been in place since the beginning of time and are eroding society. There is a normal way to do things to keep society in order. Selfishness, or the desire to do your own thing regardless of the consequences, has caused many people to go against what is best. Because of selfishness, many people are involved in unhealthy relationships. |
| **Summary of Opposing Views** | Many people have chosen to “hook up” or live together.  I have never believed my domestic sleeping arrangements are the business of any man or woman from any ministry. I “married” my partner, as it were, in the act of choosing to make a home with her, as she did with me. Today, fully one third of men and a quarter of all women prefer to cohabit.(Hodson, 2005, p. 421)  Quite a few damaged marriage relationships have given marriage a bad rap. When one out of two marriages fail, it is hard to imagine beating the odds. This is part of what people are trying to avoid by cohabitating.  Guroian writes:  “Hooking up” is dating sans courtship or expectations of a future relationship or commitment. It is strictly about user sex. I use you and you use me for mutual pleasure. And liquor is more often than not the lubricant that makes things go.(Guroian, 2005, p.383)  This seems to be the new trend. |
| **Statement of Understanding** | When people take part in these types of relationships, they think that this is honestly in their best interests at the time. When “hooking up”, the goal is to obtain gratification and take part in a sexual quest with no hindrances or long-term commitments (Guroian, 2007, p. 383). Both parties are free to do as they please the next day without recognizing any ties to each other. People also choose to live together hoping to avoid the consequences of getting a divorce. Breaking up with a domestic partner is cleaner if things do not work out as expected. Both receive many of the benefits of marriage without the commitment. Marriage does not have the best record of accomplishment either. Today, over half of marriages end in divorce. When these marriages end, many choose to keep from ever being in this position again. |
| **Statement of Your Position** | The media has put many images in our minds as to what romance is (Vannini, 2004, p. 391). They have also defined what relationships are and how we should act as we participate in them. By taking part in relationships in this way, the participants are refusing to see the consequences of their actions. Many lives are shattered over a moment of pleasure. Guroian stated, “When it seems like everyone else is “doing it,” it is hard to say no” (Guroian, 2007, p.385). Someone needs to take responsibility for what is going on, and do what is right. Participants take serious physical risks when they “hook up”. Cohabitating causes the moral fabric of society to be torn. People are deciding to be irresponsible and put their selfish desires before what is best for others. |
| **Statement of Contexts** | What does a healthy relationship look like? Can “Hooking Up” and living together be the model relationships that everyone desires? Many people are willing to give just about anything to obtain this type of relationship. In the model relationship, both parties would put the best interests of the other before their own desires. In the security of a proper relationship (marriage), both parties can be unhindered and completely free to give the other what they need to flourish. This concept of putting others before themselves makes the relationship work. Those who choose to “hook up” do not realize that they have just given a part of themselves to another person forever. That is a part of themselves that their future husband or wife can never have. It will be something that will forever be between them.  Religious instruction teaches that we should put others before ourselves. Using people, until they have served their usefulness and then tossing them aside, is not part of this teaching. People who enter relationships for selfish reasons can leave the other in worse shape than before. Society has bought into sexual experimentation in dorm life by making it easier to do so considering the type of coed living arrangements provided (Guroian, 2007, p. 382). The ideal situation, for those who are thinking of living together, is to choose marriage. Those “hooking up” are taking a huge risk and should save this activity for their future mate within the confines of marriage. |
| **Statement of Benefits** | Everyone can agree that people should be better off having been involved in a relationship. Try to imagine a society that puts the best interests of others before their interests. Relationships would work much better. When one party involved in a relationship takes care of the needs of the other person, this frees up the other partner to meet the other person’s needs. When this does not happen, one partner is getting their needs met and the other will not. The one who does not get their needs met will then do whatever they can to meet their own needs. This relationship is now broken because of selfishness. Many marriages are in this state. Everyone would benefit by focusing on doing what is best for those they desire a relationship. |

RELATIONSHIPS: A WORK IN PROGRESS?

Selfishness in Relationships

1 People get involved in different types of relationships for many reasons. The problem with these relationships is that they cannot realize their full potential since they are going against principles that have been in place since the beginning of time and are eroding society. There is a normal way to do things to keep society in order. Selfishness, or the desire to do their own thing regardless of the consequences, has caused many people to go against what is best. Many have started unhealthy relationships because of selfish intentions.

2 Many people have chosen to “hook up” or live together for many reasons. Hodson states:

I have never believed my domestic sleeping arrangements are the business of any man or woman from any ministry. I “married” my partner, as it were, in the act of choosing to make a home with her, as she did with me. Today, fully one third of men and a quarter of all women prefer to cohabit.(Hodson, 2005, p. 421)

Guroian writes:

“Hooking up” is dating sans courtship or expectations of a future relationship or commitment. It is strictly about user sex. I use you and you use me for mutual pleasure. And liquor is more often than not the lubricant that makes things go.(Guroian, 2005, p.383)

People decide to participate in these types of relationships often today.

3 When people take part in these types of relationships, they think that this is honestly in their best interests at the time. When “hooking up”, the goal is to obtain gratification and take part in a sexual quest with no hindrances or long term commitments (Guroian, 2007, p. 383). Both parties are free to do as they please the next day without recognizing any ties to each other. People also choose to live together hoping to avoid the consequences of getting a divorce. Breaking up with a domestic partner is cleaner if things do not work out as expected. Also, both receive many of the benefits of marriage without the commitment. Marriage does not have the best record of accomplishment either. Today, over half of marriages end in divorce. When these marriages end, many choose to keep from ever being in this position again.

4 The media has put many images in our minds as to what romance is (Vannini, 2004, p. 391). They have also defined what relationships are and how we should act as we participate in them. By taking part in relationships in this way, the participants are refusing to see the consequences of their actions. A moment of fun has destroyed many dreams. Guroian stated, “When it seems like everyone else is “doing it,” it is hard to say no” (Guroian, 2007, p.385). Someone needs to take responsibility for what is going on, and do what is right. There are serious physical risks taken when someone “hooks up”. Cohabitating causes the moral fabric of society to be torn. People are deciding to be irresponsible and put their selfish desires before what is best for others.

5 What does a healthy relationship look like? Can “hooking up” and living together be the model relationships that everyone searches for and desires? In the model relationship, both parties would put the best interests of the other before their own desires. In the security of a proper relationship (marriage), both parties can be unhindered and completely free to give the other what they need to thrive.

6 This concept of putting others before themselves makes the relationship work. The people who choose to “hook up” do not realize that they have just given a part of themselves to another person forever. That is a part of themselves that their future husband or wife can never have. It will be something that will forever be between them.

7 Religious instruction teaches that we should put others before ourselves. Using people, until they have served their usefulness and then tossing them aside, is not part of this teaching. People who enter relationships for selfish reasons can leave the other in worse shape than before. Society has bought into sexual experimentation in dorm life by making it easier to do so considering the type of coed living arrangements provided (Guroian, 2007, p. 382). The ideal situation, for those who are thinking of living together, is to choose marriage. Those “hooking up” are taking a huge risk and should save this activity for their future mate within the confines of marriage. A few of the most serious risks include pregnancy, AIDS, cervical cancer, Chlamydia1, genital warts, and other sexually transmitted diseases.

8 Everyone can agree that people should be better off having been involved in a relationship. Try to imagine a society that puts the interests of others before their interests. Relationships would work much better and potential risks eliminated. When one party involved in a relationship takes care of the needs of the other person, this frees up the other partner to meet the other person’s needs. When this does not happen, one partner is getting their needs met and the other will not. The one who does not get their needs met will then do whatever they can to meet their own needs. This relationship is now broken because of selfishness. Many marriages are in this state. Everyone would benefit by focusing on doing what is best for those they desire a relationship. Maybe this could be something Hollywood could promote. It would a great story with a happy ending.

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I give Mr. Rizzo permission to read in class or print for the class my paper.

Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Author Note

Counseling couples who are trying to save their marriages can be rewarding and frustrating at the same time. The concept of putting others before yourself is so simple, yet many find it difficult to do. God created the idea of relationships. He also gave some principles to help make it work. When those principles are followed, the results can be extraordinary. Why settle for anything less? Selfishness destroys relationships.

Footnotes

1Chlamydia is an STD that is easily contracted through oral, anal, or vaginal sex. More sexual partners can increase the risk. Symptoms may or may not occur and if not treated in time can cause serious health issues and infertility. Men are also at risk. (“Sexual,” 2007)