



Boy Girl Relationship vs Primary Foundational Commitments

To begin with, carefully prioritize your primary commitment. Any attraction to the opposite sex that distracts you from your primary commitment is unhealthy.

You need to first know what your primary commitments are. Even as an attraction toward the opposite sex, starts seeping into one's life (most often to one person in particular) we begin to neglect our primary commitments of our present life for the sake of this attraction and attention.

Let me speak plainly :)

Imagine you were to find this boy or girl very attractive; you are bowled over and are **fascinated** by him or her. Your time is spent **thinking** about him or her; you follow him or her, **trying** to see him/her wherever possible and be seen by him/her whenever possible. You **neglect** studies, beginning to **bunk** classes and

tutions, **cheat** and **manipulate** circumstances in life, all for his or her sake. You are **revelling** in this attention you are suddenly getting and the attraction gives you a high of its own. Slowly this relationship **starts taking** almost all of your waking hours, and you desperately try squeezing in as much time as you can create into it.

With all the time, thoughts, emotions and energy you spend on this relationship and person, everything else naturally takes a back seat. BY now you are convinced that studies, family responsibilities or work is not as important as this one person and he/she is worth sacrificing everything else for.

Eventually what happens?

Yes, in all likelihood you might get the love of your life, finally. Let us imagine you are



now married to this same person. You have now conquered all odds and he or she is yours. And now, you start off on the journey of real life, together. But, as you go on you realise that it is not at all as you imagined it would be. **Reality hits you hard in the stomach. So, now at this point, what happens?**

In fact, it is now that your primary commitments, if they were fulfilled, should have paid off. **Those foundations, if well laid would have come to the rescue now.**

But of course, you had chosen to overlook those very commitments and neglected them, for the sake of this person who was the sole object of all your attention and devotion. But now, this same person is turning into an ever-present bitter, nagging individual, who only stirs in anger and frustration inside you.

I know that a few of you think that you are smarter than that, and it would not happen to you. You are saying to yourself, "Let me see!" or "I can handle it better than that when I come to that point." **Unfortunately, I cannot at this time appreciate your confidence.**

Please bear in mind this principle, the moment you say, "**Let me see what happens later**", **you are totally missing the point.** The situation described above seems very far now, from a distance it is not that difficult.

But when you do come upon it, it is extremely hard and trying.

So how do youngsters react when life hits them hard in relationships and they have neglected the primary commitments?

They panic, panic and panic, "I need to do something." They don't think through or get Godly counsel. They just react.

The blame game begins. "It's all because of you." They blame their parents, siblings, friends and even the one they so dearly loved and for whose sake all the commitments were jeopardized.

A few try short cuts. They presume life can be sorted out easily, “I know this uncle, that relative, they can surely help, I should ask them” and so on. But they soon understand that all these are easier said than done. Now, even if one finds help from somewhere and life works itself out, life’s stability would have been terribly rocked and tested during the storm.

Some others become bitter in life, against God, family and friends. Still others get into addictions to forget the hurt, pain and frustration. They overlook the fact that once the high of the drug or liquor wears off, reality stares back at them just as before.

Some give up. They ask themselves, “What will people, relatives and neighbours think about me?” They end up taking their own lives.

I love this quote “Some people change when they see the light and others change only when they feel the heat”

One Real Story

I was speaking at a school in New Delhi. I love being in this school and the teens are such lovely individuals. One evening, I and my 5-year-old son went out for a stroll in the nearby park. I enjoy these walks with my son. It was evening and it was getting darker very quickly.

Suddenly, I saw this girl sitting all alone and crying in the park. I wanted to go and meet her. But, I was hesitant and cautious as I did not want her to misunderstand me. There were others in the park and I did not want them too to misunderstand me. But since my son Jedi was with me, I finally ventured up to her and talked. At first she resisted. Then I informed her that I was a counsellor and had come on a speaking engagement at the school nearby. Then, she just broke down and sobbed and sobbed.

She narrated her tragic story. She and her boyfriend had fallen in love and they decided to run away from home. At the time, they thought they could easily live life, but they were in for a rude shock. Life hit them, real hard. They had not eaten properly in days. She was missing home and realised that she had made an awful mistake.

While she was still speaking a man, her husband I gathered, walked up. He seemed very angry and upset. I tried explaining to him, who I was but he didn’t seem too eager to listen or accept help. So, I had to come off hoping good sense would prevail over them. After about 6 months, the same girl texted me on phone and although I don’t recollect her exact message, it read something like this, “Sirji, I am totally lost and frustrated. I don’t see any hope. I want to die”

I want to bring out a very important principle here.

All things need to happen at the right time. I know, I know, I know..... You are now saying in your mind, “Yes, I will only marry at the right time.” You are missing the point, dear teenager. Even the starting of a relationship has to be at the right time, in the right way, based on maturity and stability. You can get into a good and right relationship, only when you are old enough to know yourself, your priorities, your preferences and your ambitions.

Only when you have successfully fulfilled your primary commitments in life and are established in the milestones like education, career, and so on, would you be ready for the bigger commitment, which is a lifelong relationship. Anything before or after the right time is not healthy and will not give fruits in the longer run.

Another Real Story

This couple, a young boy and girl were just college students, when they believed they were in love and decided to run away from home so they could start a life together. Of course, they had not thought it through.

They had some money and they eloped with it. Eventually, they ran out of money and had nothing left with them to start and live the life they had so lovingly dreamt of together. My heart breaks when I remember what had happened. They had no money to rent a house, and had no place to go to. So, they would buy cheap movie theatre tickets, just to sleep 2 ½ hours. Could you even imagine? So they would sleep in theatres and they would use public toilets (the ones that were very, very dirty and rundown). How long could one survive like this? While so, the boy fell ill with malaria and needed medical help. Since they could not afford anything else, they had to go into one of the not-so-good hospitals and naturally, his condition worsened.

Do you know what they did? Finally, they boldly decided to return to their families and seek their forgiveness.

Well, so here is another principle. Sometimes, when you have gone way off in the wrong direction and are now going about in circles, it is good to get back to where you began from and make a fresh start. Of course, the ego will not allow that to happen. But remember humility brings unity.

Final Conclusion

Please don't move with the crowd presuming that it will not happen to you or you will not be affected or that you can handle it better. Please, follow through your primary commitments. Get your foundations established and strong.

A few of you may think that you have enough money, you are not poor, and you are mature, you can handle life and that you are strong and so on. But, dear teenager, I can tell you of hundreds of instances, all from experiences of real boys and girls of how money and wealth alone did not buy peace or joy.

There are certain things in life that needs to be waited upon. God in His wisdom has created a time for everything.

A right time for birth and another for death, A right time to plant and another to reap, A right time to kill and another to heal, A right time to destroy and another to construct, A right time to cry and another to laugh, A right time to lament and another to cheer, A right time to make love and another to abstain, A right time to embrace and another to part, A right time to search and another

to count your losses, A right time to hold on and another to let go, A right time to rip out and another to mend, A right time to shut up and another to speak up, A right time to love and another to hate, A right time to wage war and another to make peace.

In its time, everything is fruitful. In the right context everything is worthy of pursuit. In the right relationship, true love heals.