

Relationship Tip of The Day



We are NOT “All the Same”

When I was young, I used to think that all human beings were basically the same. I thought we shared the same needs and desires. Now that I’m wiser, I know this is not true. There are some people who are extremely difficult to understand. They go through life completely differently than I do. They have thousands of variables in their minds due to what they have been thought and have experienced. They have different values and dreams or even no goals at all.

As a Spanish teacher in high school, I would always remind myself that each student was unique and not necessarily interested in what I thought they should learn. Behind all of those gorgeous eyes I was honored to look at each day were private thoughts and the turmoil of adolescence. It would have been silly of me to think they would all suddenly focus on what I was saying or even consider it of importance.

Additionally, it is vanity to think that we can convert others to our way of processing life—even if we think everyone should see things as we do. They don’t.

When I was in college I briefly dated someone who was very different than anyone I’d ever met. Nothing was wrong with him really. It was that no matter how I tried, I could not connect clearly with him in conversation. He never seemed to understand me, and I didn’t understand him.

It was clear to us both that our relationship had no promise, and he was the first one to finally suggest that we stop seeing each other.

As we were amicably agreeing to this, he added an unnecessary insult, saying, “You are the weirdest person I’ve ever met. I actually think you are insane.”

“Oh,” I said, reeling from the surprise of his jab to the heart and honestly not knowing how to respond.

I remember thinking to myself, “No, YOU are the one who is insane. I have never met anyone as strange as you.” Needless to say, that was our last date.

Over the years, the idea that “everyone is basically the same” has completely disappeared from my beliefs. People are different, and the sooner each one of us accepts this, the sooner we can learn to get along.

There is glorious freedom in knowing we don’t have to understand someone to love them. That’s what acceptance is. “I don’t ‘get’ you, but I choose to love you ‘as is’.”

This doesn't mean we need to become best friends with everyone. It means that we should not view ourselves as superior nor see others as inferior because of their differences.

God loves us all, and He commands us to love each other. If we want to share the love of God with people, we first have to understand and accept that we are unique.

This helps us to broaden our communication to include more people all the while trusting that God knows each heart, and He is able to reach where we never could. He takes the bread we distribute and satisfies each individual understanding infinitely more than we ever could.

1. Have you even known someone who instantly did not like you? Were you able to figure out why?
2. Are there people in your extended family who see things differently than you do? How have you managed to relate with that person?
3. Do you know anyone who has different political or religious views than you? How have you worked to "agree to disagree" and still love each other?