

Relational Awareness ~ Lesson 5 ~ Reverse the Curse

In our first lesson we learned how to practice agape love. Then we looked at God's idea of mutual submission. In week three we saw how marriage operates as a body. Last week we studied God's original intent for marriage. We were challenged to identify a relationship in our lives where one person is dominant over another and think of ways to bring about change. Please share how this went.

In today's lesson, we will look at the relational curse in Genesis 3 and we will look at ways that a relationship is built up or torn down.

1. Read *Genesis chapter 3*. Who was the serpent and how did he convince Eve to eat the fruit? (vs 1-5)
2. How did Eve convince Adam to eat the fruit? (vs 6)
3. How did the disobedience of Adam and Eve affect their relationship with God? (vs 10 & 23)
4. In verses 11-13 we see the beginning of dysfunctional relationships. Both the man and the woman chose to not take responsibility for their own actions and instead put the blame on someone else. They did wrong, they got caught, and they didn't repent. How have you seen this type of dysfunction played out in a relationship?
5. What was God's curse on the snake? (vs 14-15)
6. Read *Genesis 2:17 & 3:16-19*. Five curses were given to the humans – 1 for both, 3 for the woman, 1 for the man. What are the 5 curses and which two are relational curses?
7. How have the relational curses affected marital relationships throughout history?
8. Can the curses be reversed? How? Read *1 Corinthians 15:22*.

Victims living under the oppression of a controller feel as if they are living in death.

9. When there is abuse in a marriage, children are trained to abuse the next generation. How can marriages model God’s love for children to follow?

10. Let’s look at some characteristics that can either build a relationship or tear it down. These are applicable to marriage as well as other relationships. In the chart below, mark the characteristics that apply to your closest relationship.

BUILDING UP

TEARING DOWN

Honest/Sincere	Dishonest/Deceptive
Freedom	Subjugation/ Domination/Control
Faithful	Betrayal/ Unfaithfulness/Cheating
Values the other	Mistreatment/Oppressive
Openness	Covert/Concealed Information
Listens to ideas, concerns, and beliefs	Dismisses concerns of the other
Comfort	Torment/ Harassment
Affirming	Criticism/Judging

Adapted from Woman – Aware & Choosing

11. Fill in some other characteristics above that build up or tear down a relationship.

12. Without trying to change the other person, what one thing can you work on this week to improve your relationship?

You can be a part of the solution to domestic abuse by joining your church’s Domestic Kindness Action Team



DKAT: Equips the whole church with DK instruction in Godly living & connects the oppressed and the repentant controllers to expert help.

If you can be anything, Choose to Be Kind