

Research says we have **three core needs**:

- Worth: a positive and stable identity
- Empowerment: a sense of personal power and agency
- Connection: supportive and affirming relationships



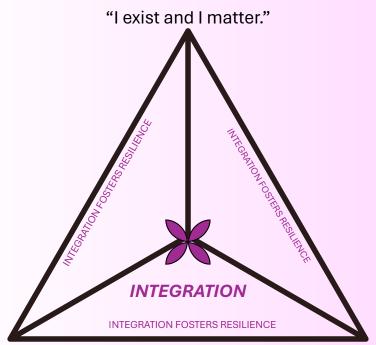


When our need to feel
worthy, empowered, and
connected are met and
integrated, we feel
resourceful and more
equipped to face challenges.

We're more resilient.



WORTH



EMPOWERMENT

CONNECTION

"I have power and can act."

"I am loved and I belong."



But the difficulties we experienced growing up often prevent us from developing and integrating those needs, which impacts our resilience as adults.



We might struggle to feel worthy, making it hard to recover from mistakes or move past failures. The real problem, however, isn't the wound itself, but how it formed—and what we learned to avoid to navigate the situation.

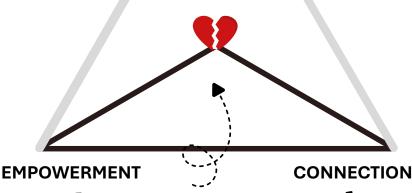


SHAME

"I avoid showing up authentically because in the past it led to rejection or criticism."

UNTAPPED POTENTIAL LOWERS RESILIENCE

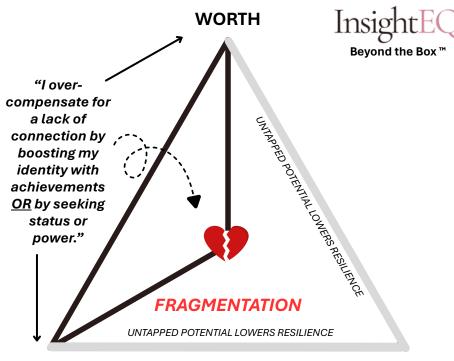
FRAGMENTATION



"I overcompensate for my fear of showing up as myself by seeking status or formal authority, <u>OR</u> by being what others need me to be."



If we feel unworthy because of rejection or criticism, we may run from our need for connection. The resulting isolation will deepen our sense of unworthiness, making recovery from setbacks even harder.



EMPOWERMENT

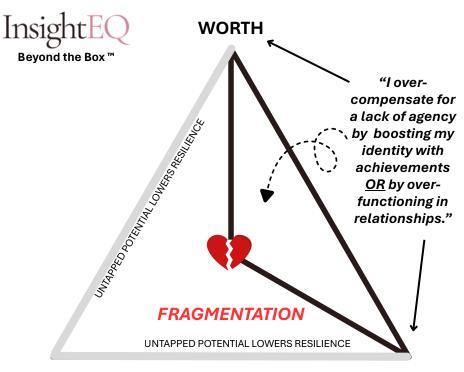
DISCONNECTION

I avoid getting close to people because I experienced them as unsafe or unreliable.



But, if we feel unworthy because we were abused or bullied, we may avoid our need to feel empowered.

Believing that power is dangerous, we may fall into patterns of helplessness, which only makes us feel worse about ourselves.



DISEMPOWERMENT

CONNECTION

"I avoid my own power and agency because I often saw power being misused or mishandled."



The same is true for people who were betrayed by those closest to them when they were younger...





...and for those who were abused or controlled to the point of losing their sense of autonomy.





Ideas for integration:

- 1. You're not broken; there's nothing to fix.
- Your compensation strategies kept you safe and helped you succeed.
- 3. Instead of focusing on what you need to "stop" doing, start experimenting with the avoided drive to create balance.



Remember, the goal is not to "stop" being who you are, but to make all parts of you accessible.

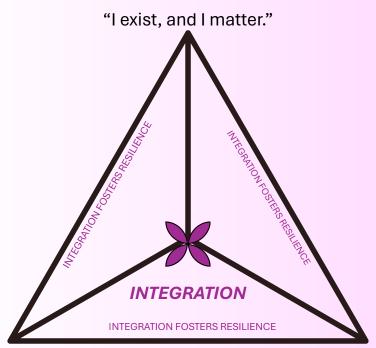
The goal is wholeness, not further fragmentation.







WORTH



EMPOWERMENT

"I can act, I have power."

CONNECTION

"I am loved, and I belong."



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