

Series Graphic

You & me image

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/b3/da/78/b3da78ba9bc998960e49a99a70eb4919.jpg>

{come up one at a time}

Every relationship we've had, we've had in a fallen world with fallen people.

P.S. You and I are one of those flawed people.

The Great Default:

When there is a "problem", let's start with "you", not me, okay?

Okay!

{come up one at a time}

- *Do unto others as they have done unto me*
- *Do unto others as they deserve to be done unto*
- *Do unto others until they see things my way*
- *Do unto others until I wear them down and get my way*
- *Do unto others as my mood would have it*
- *Do unto others until I am ready to leave*

Philippians 2:1-2

If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

{same slide; one at a time}

We all bring a "purpose" into our relationships.

- Personal & often preference-driven expectations.
- Identity in and through the relationship.
- But ... we are made/designed for relationships

Big Question: One Purpose???

- What does God say?

Philippians 2:3a

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit ...

"Me and You" can never become "Me versus You."

Philippians 2:3b

... but in **humility** ... = NEW VIRTUE; *shabby, slave, low-life; never used in pagan culture*

Philippians 2:3b

... but in humility consider others as **more important** than yourselves.

You and Me □ **You over Me**

1) When there is a “problem”, I will first look in the **mirror at me** before I look out the **window at you** (... and before I point the finger at you!).

{all together; one slide; keep formatting of 1 question per line}

What makes me difficult to live with?

How do I sin against you?

What can I do to improve?

Philippians 2:4

Everyone should look not to his own interests, but **rather** to the interests of others.

In relationships, I am NOT in it to WIN it (over you).

In relationships, I am NOT in it to GET it (from you).

In relationships, I am in it FOR YOU!

When relationships are less and less about me, there is less of an opportunity for sinful **anger.**

{one at a time}

Anger: something I need or want (goal or purpose) is blocked ... BY YOU!

In marriage = **Contempt**

But what about ME ...?

Philippians 2:1 (MSG)

If you've gotten anything at all out of **following Christ**, if **His love** has made any difference in your life, if being in a **community of the Spirit** means anything to you

CONFRONT & CONFESS UNBELIEF:

The Gospel works for me & God but not so much for me & you = Unbelief!

In relationships, I am not expecting YOU to give me what God has already given ME in the gospel.

2) In my relationships, I often need to **check the flow**.

CHECK THE FLOW:

You **fill me up** OR I **overflow** to you??

{come up one at a time}

Sometimes, I will need to speak the truth in love TO you.

- a) WHY matters ...
- b) HOW matters ...
- c) WHEN matters ...

{come up one at a time}

Sometimes, I need to hear the truth in love FROM you.

- a) Realize rebuke is channel of grace & love
- b) Refuse to be defensive vs. receptive

COUPLES QUESTIONS graphic//Date Night something from Daniel??

CHECK THE FLOW

Move to the **MESS**

God's **MERCY & LOVE** are in the mess

Because God loves us so much, He cannot leave us as we are.

So God takes us where we don't want to go in order to produce in us what we can't produce on our own the character of Christ.

Philippians 2:5

Adopt the same **attitude** as that of **Christ Jesus** ...

Philippians 2:6-8

Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. ⁷ Instead He **emptied Himself** by assuming the form of a **servant**, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when He had come as a man,

⁸ He **humbled** Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.

3) In my relationships, before I look at “me & you”, I will look to **Christ** ...

{one at a time}

**Considering the depth of His humility ...
Not demanding for myself more than Christ demanded for Himself.
Freshly & daily receiving His forgiveness & love and my identity**

3) In my relationships, before I look at “me and you”, I will look to Christ and seek to **reflect Him to you.**

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹ For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every Name, ¹⁰ so that at the Name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—¹¹ and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.