

## The Four “P”s to Look For In A Relationship

*Perception - Pay attention to conversations where by you or the other person tend to discuss matters and concerns from your limited interpretation alone; making yourselves the hero, or the victim*

*Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death*

*Preference - Watch for areas in the relationship where by you or the other person are more concerned with your way of things being done above loving the other*

*Romans 14:16 - Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil*

*Pain - Pay attention to conversations where by you or the other tend to talk more about how you have been disappointed or let down by the other above how you have let down and disappointed the other*

*Proverbs 13:12 - Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desired fulfilled is a tree of life*


*Passion - Pay attention to where you or the other person are grumbling, complaining, or angry as a result of not getting what you want or getting what you don't want from the other; exposing how you treasure getting your way above loving God's way*

*James 3:16 - For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing*

## *The Two "P"s to Promote in a Relationship*

*Precept - Interpret the situation from a biblical perspective with specific principles from the Bible that govern the problems accordingly*

*Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*



*Practice - Identify specific ways to think, communicate, behave, relate, and serve that will help you put off the sin problem and put on the right way of living*

*James 1:22-25 - But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.*

### Questions to Help you Work the P's

1. What is the problem or situation?

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2. How does the Bible address or discuss this problem or situation?

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3. Is this problem or situation based on personal preferences (the way I want something to be) or is this problem or situation based on a violation of Biblical Principles (the way God wants something be?) (Romans 14:1-15:3, Philippians 2:1-16)

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4. Is it a problem or situation whereby: (Circle the answer that seems to fit your problem or situation)

- A. You both have faulty views on the matter and need the truth of God's Word to clarify and clear up the matter?
- B. You both know the truth on the matter but refuse to obey God in the truth you know?
- C. You both know the truth in the matter but do not know how to apply what you know to the matter?

5. What are the underlying desires you have turned into lusts and are demanding the other person to satisfy in this problem or situation? Thus driving the conflict between you and the other person? Circle the ones that apply to your situation. (James 3:13-James 4:3)

- 1. To be in control
- 2. To be loved by others
- 3. To be accepted by others
- 4. To be understood by others
- 5. To never be hurt or disappointed by others
- 6. To be respected by others
- 7. To be served by others
- 8. To have personal preferences accommodated at all times
- 9. To be viewed as competent by others
- 10. To be approved of by others
- 11. To belong to someone
- 12. To be held in high regard by others
- 13. To be significant to others
- 14. To be fulfilled by others
- 15. To be satisfied by others
- 16. To be valuable to others
- 17. To maintain a favorable position with others

- 18. To be secure/safe with others
- 19. To never be alone

6. What attitudinal, verbal, behavioral, relational sins need to be confessed to God and to each other as result of how you both have been dealing with each other in the problem or situation?

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7. What specific thoughts, words, actions, relational patterns and service towards the other person needs to be developed to bring resolution and build God-honoring character in your life and the life of the other person?

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8. What are the tangible measures to determine if you both are progressing or digressing?

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9. Who will hold you accountable to continue working through the plan of resolution?

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