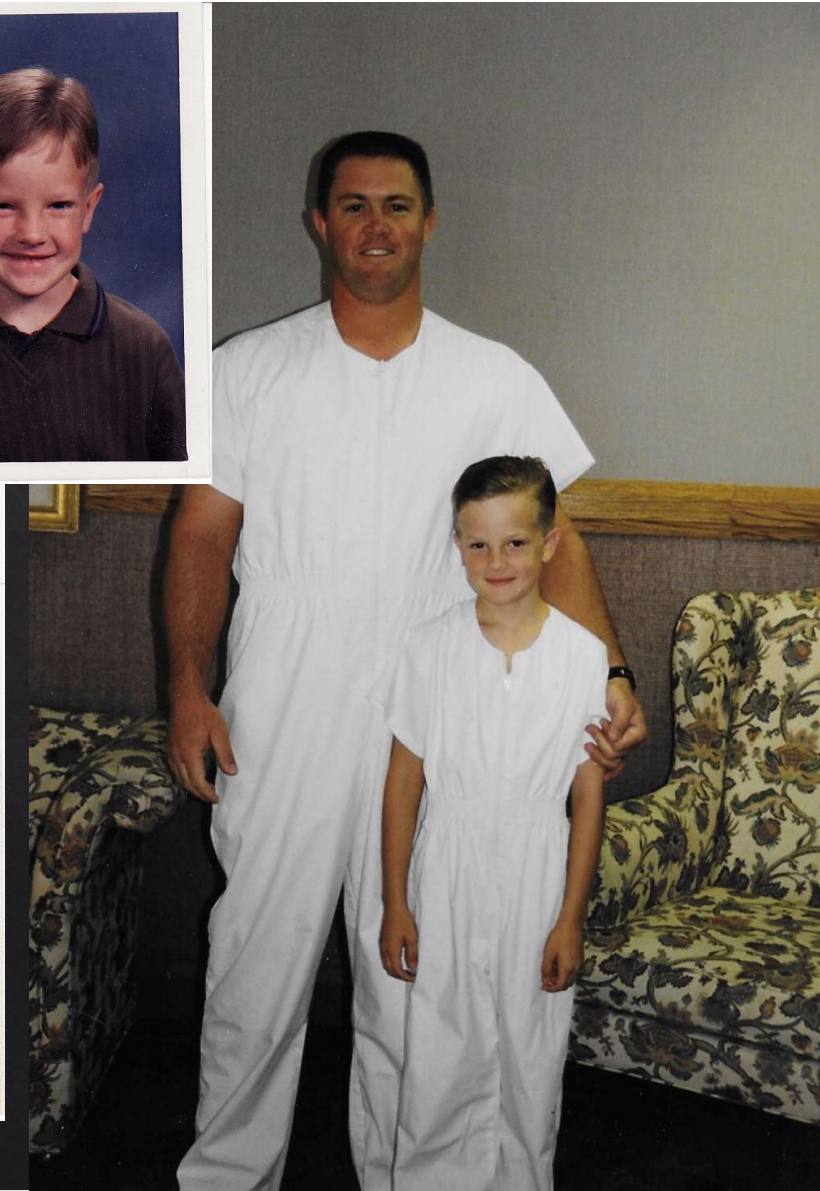
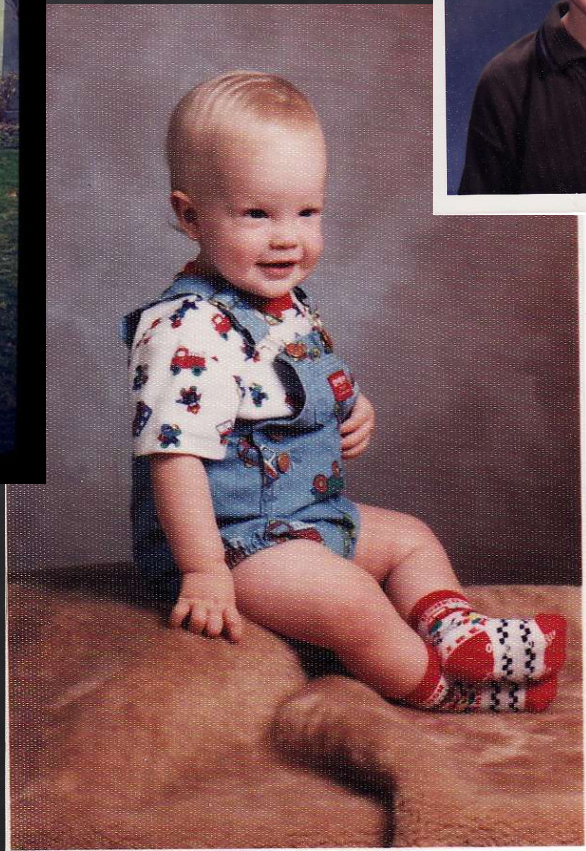




Mixed-Orientation Relationships

Merging Faith in
JESUS CHRIST
with Social Science

Who am I?



1991 - 2010



2010-2011





2012 - 2015





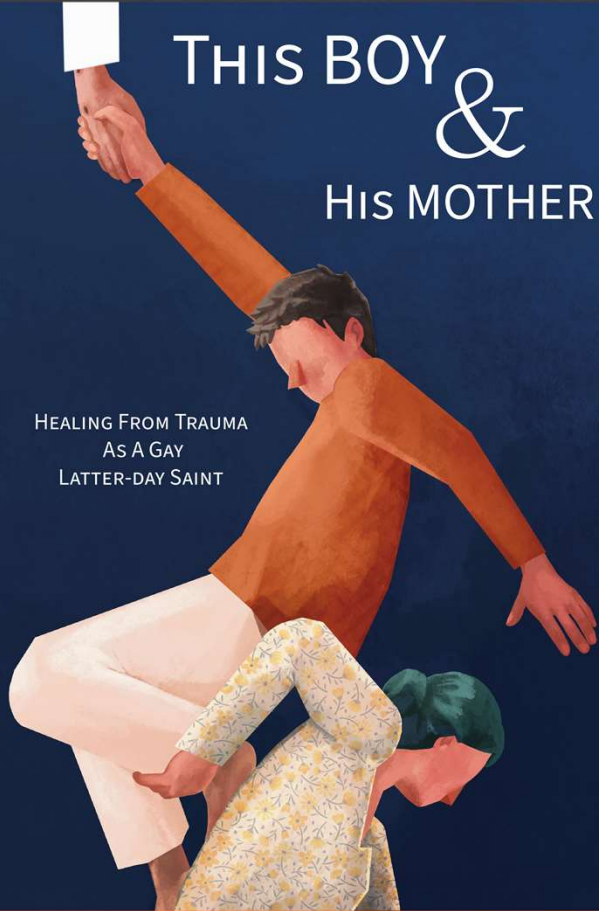
2015-2016

Behold Thy Mother – October 2015

“Secondly, I speak of a young man who entered the mission field worthily but by his own choice returned home early due to same-sex attraction and some trauma he experienced in that regard. He was still worthy, but his faith was at crisis level, his emotional burden grew ever heavier, and his spiritual pain was more and more profound. He was by turns hurt, confused, angry, and desolate...”

THIS BOY & HIS MOTHER

HEALING FROM TRAUMA
AS A GAY
LATTER-DAY SAINT



PRESTON JENKINS

FOREWORD BY DAVID HOLLAND

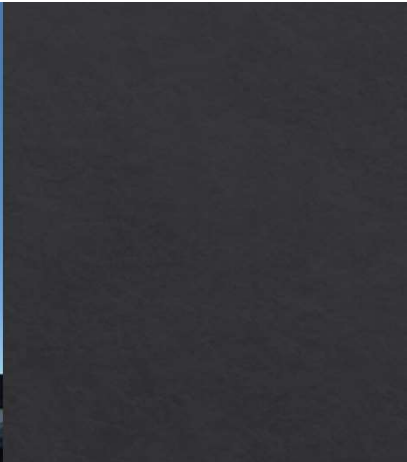
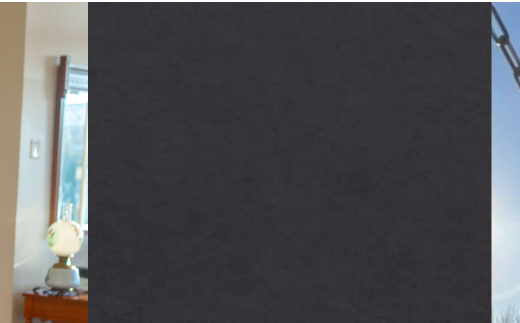
AFTERWORD BY CHERI JENKINS



2017 - 2019



2020 - 2021



2021 – 2025



DOCTRINE > Science

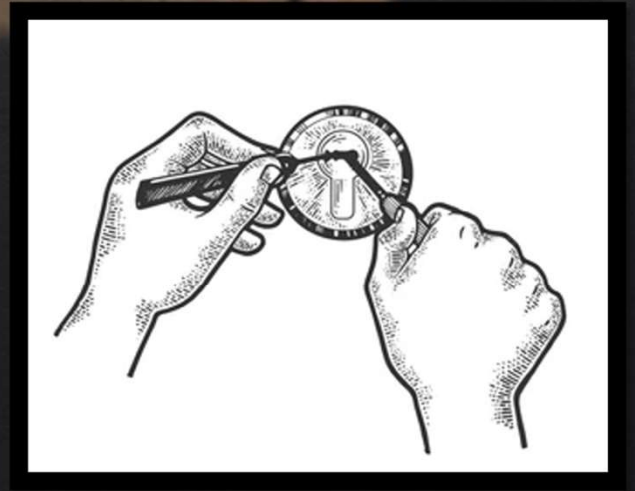
SCRIPTURES > Scripts

CONVERSION > Testimony

DISCIPLESHIP > Authenticity

FAITH > Fear

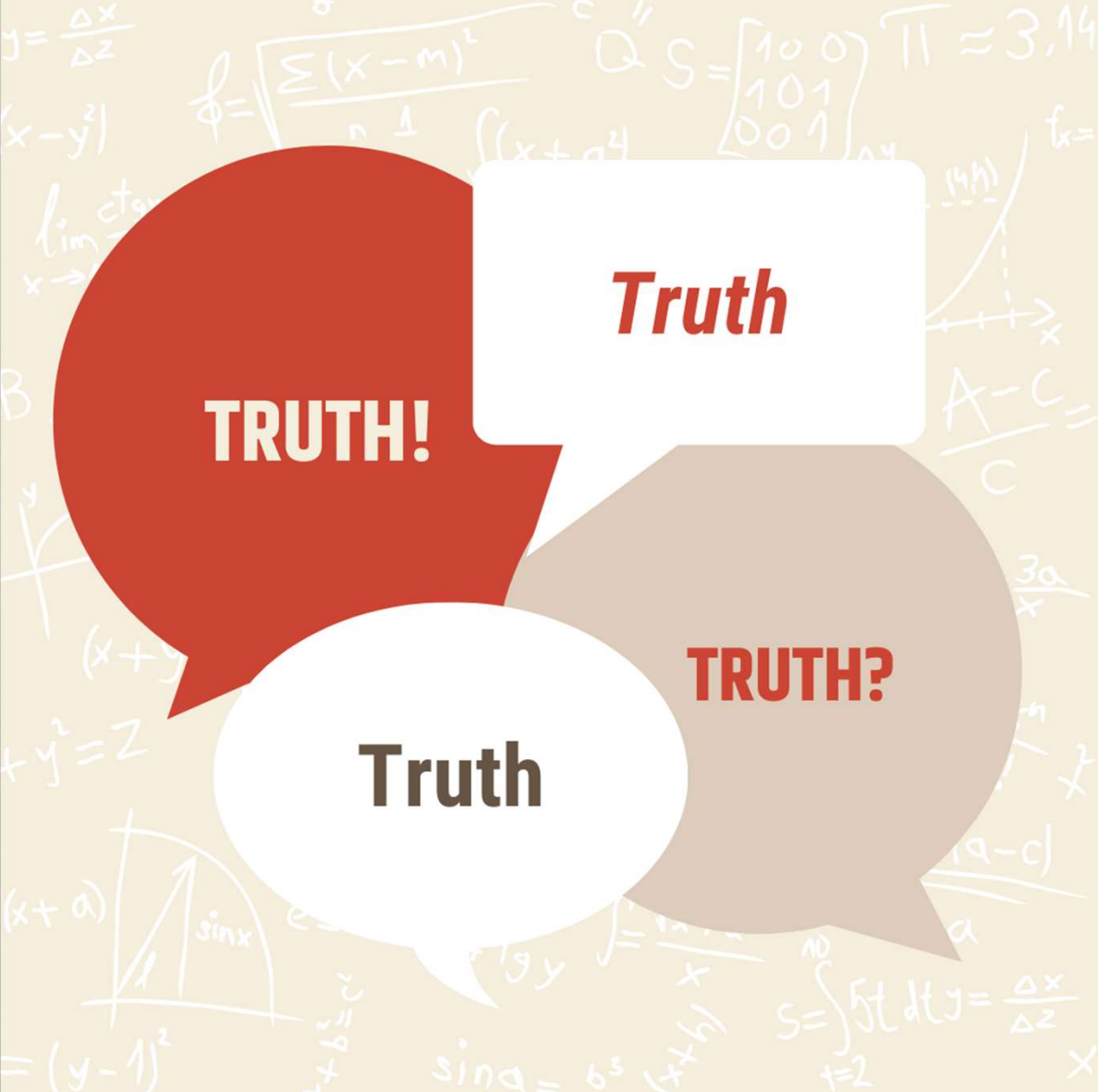
ZION > LGBT Community



(Terryl and Fiona Givens, "The Crucible of Doubt: Reflections On the Quest for Faith," Deseret Book Company, August 25, 2014).

1. TRUTH vs truth
2. Why man and woman?
3. Social Science of Relationships

1



TRUTH!

Truth

Truth

TRUTH?

Doctrine & Covenants 93:

24 And truth is knowledge of things *as they are*, and *as they were*, and *as they are to come*;

25 And whatsoever is more or less than this is the spirit of that wicked one who was a liar from the beginning.

26 The Spirit of truth is of God. I am the Spirit of truth, and John bore record of me, saying: He received a fulness of truth, yea, even of all truth;

27 And *no man receiveth a fulness unless he keepeth his commandments*.

28 He that keepeth his commandments receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things.

Pres. Packer, *Little Children*, Oct. 1986:

“True doctrine, understood, changes attitudes and behavior.

“The study of the doctrines of the gospel will improve behavior quicker than a study of behavior will improve behavior. Preoccupation with unworthy behavior can lead to unworthy behavior. That is why we stress so forcefully the study of the doctrines of the gospel.”

THE FAMILY A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY AND COUNCIL OF THE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LAT

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY and the Council of the Twelve
of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
proclaim that marriage between a man and a
is ordained of God and that the family is central to
Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

—male and female—are created in the
beloved spirit son or daughter of
has a divine nature and
of individual

to provide
teach them
mandm
they
will

Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ's work and glory is "to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." (Moses 1:39). What They want most is for us to have a perfect, resurrected body like Theirs and a perfect, refined character like Theirs so that Father can share *all* He hath with us in the Celestial Kingdom (Doctrine and Covenants 84:33-48). There is a recurring pattern throughout the centuries' worth of scriptures: **God operates under the assumption that you will want *all* that He has to offer. He will not teach us to settle for less** (though He has prepared two entire kingdoms for such people). Hence the Godhead's steady, unceasing invitation to repent.

Pres. Oaks, *The Plan and the Proclamation*, from 2017 General Conference:

“While there are various kingdoms and glories, our Heavenly Father’s ultimate desire for His children is what President Monson called, ‘eternal life in the kingdom of God,’ which is exaltation in families. This is more than salvation... Even as we must live with the marriage laws and other traditions of a declining world, those who strive for exaltation must make personal choices in family life according to the Lord’s way whenever that differs from the world’s way... **Those who do not believe in or aspire to exaltation, and are most persuaded by the ways of the world, consider this Family Proclamation as just a statement of policy that should be changed**... The Proclamation on the Family is a statement of eternal truth, the will of the Lord for His children who seek eternal life... Consider it as such, live by it, and you will be blessed as you press forward toward eternal life.”

C.S. Lewis, from his book, *The Great Divorce*:

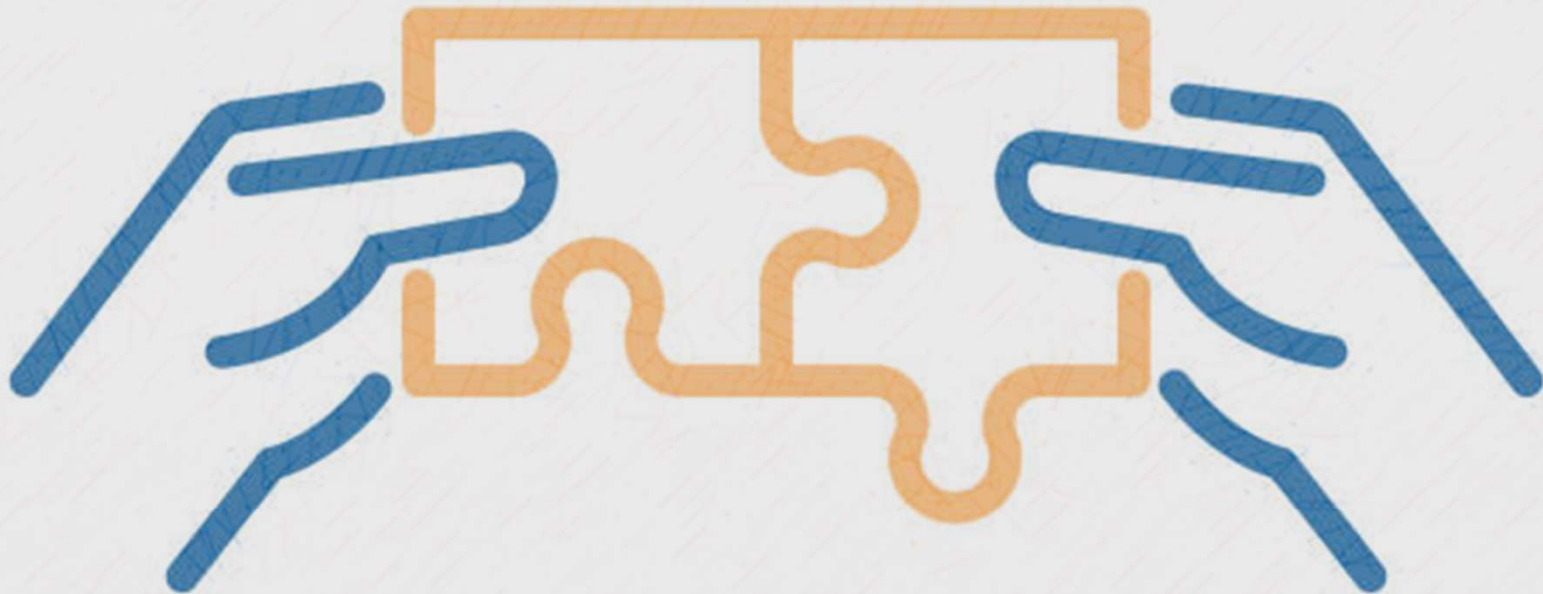
“‘Son,’ he said, ‘ye cannot in your present state understand eternity... That is what mortals misunderstand. They say of some temporal suffering [for righteousness’ sake], ‘No future bliss can make up for it,’ not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory. And of some sinful pleasure they say ‘Let me have but this and I’ll take the consequences’: little dreaming how damnation will spread back and back into their past and contaminate the pleasure of the sin. Both processes begin even before death. The good man’s past begins to change so that his forgiven sins and remembered sorrows take on the quality of Heaven: the bad man’s past already conforms to his badness and is filled only with dreariness. And that is why [in the end] the Blessed will say ‘We have never lived anywhere except in Heaven,’ and the Lost, ‘We were always in Hell.’”
And both will speak truly.’”

The image features two dark silhouettes of human profiles facing each other against a dark background. A soft, circular glow is visible between the two profiles, highlighting the space between them. The overall mood is contemplative and focused on the interaction between the two figures.

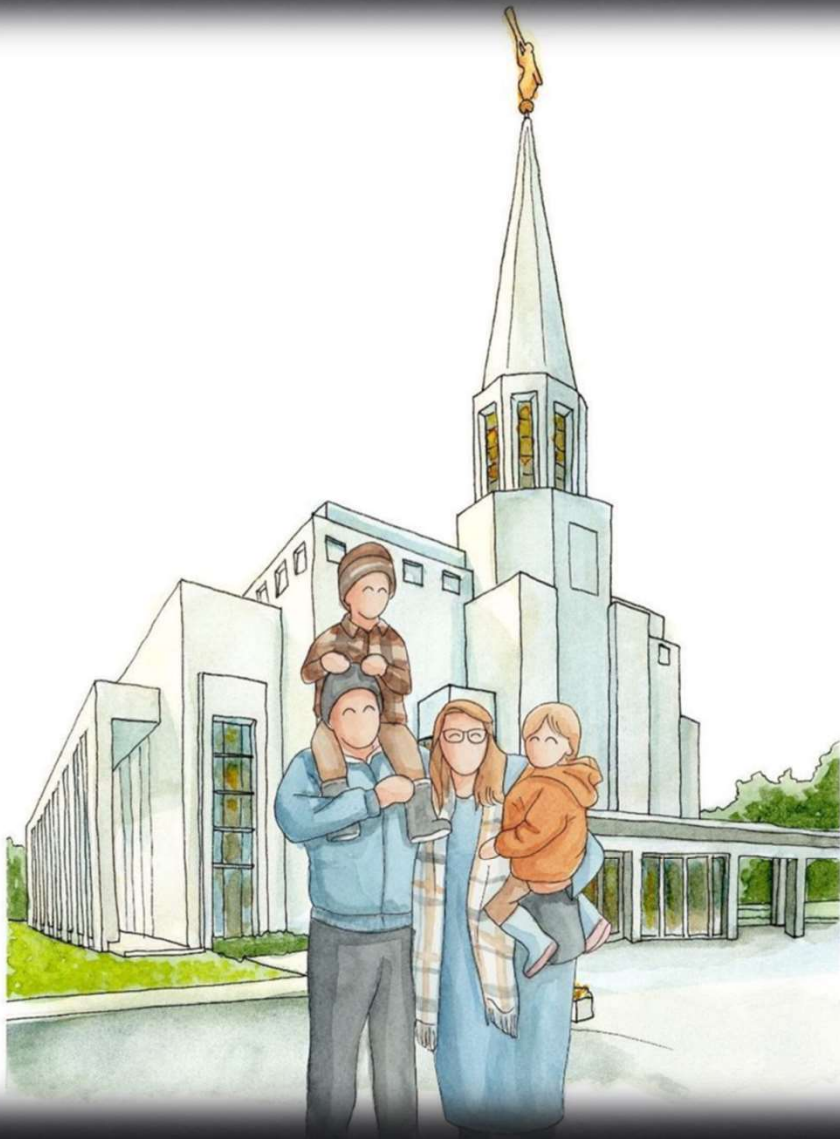
2

WHY?

Doctrinal Pairs



“Joseph Smith taught that God ‘looks upon the whole of the human family with a fatherly care and paternal regard’ and that ‘if men do not comprehend the character of God, they do not comprehend themselves’ (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 39, 40).



“We, the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator’s plan for the eternal destiny of His children...

“The family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity...”

Are you a friend of
marriages?

“Mother Killed the Rattlesnakes” by Emma Lou Thayne (*Ensign*, April 1975)

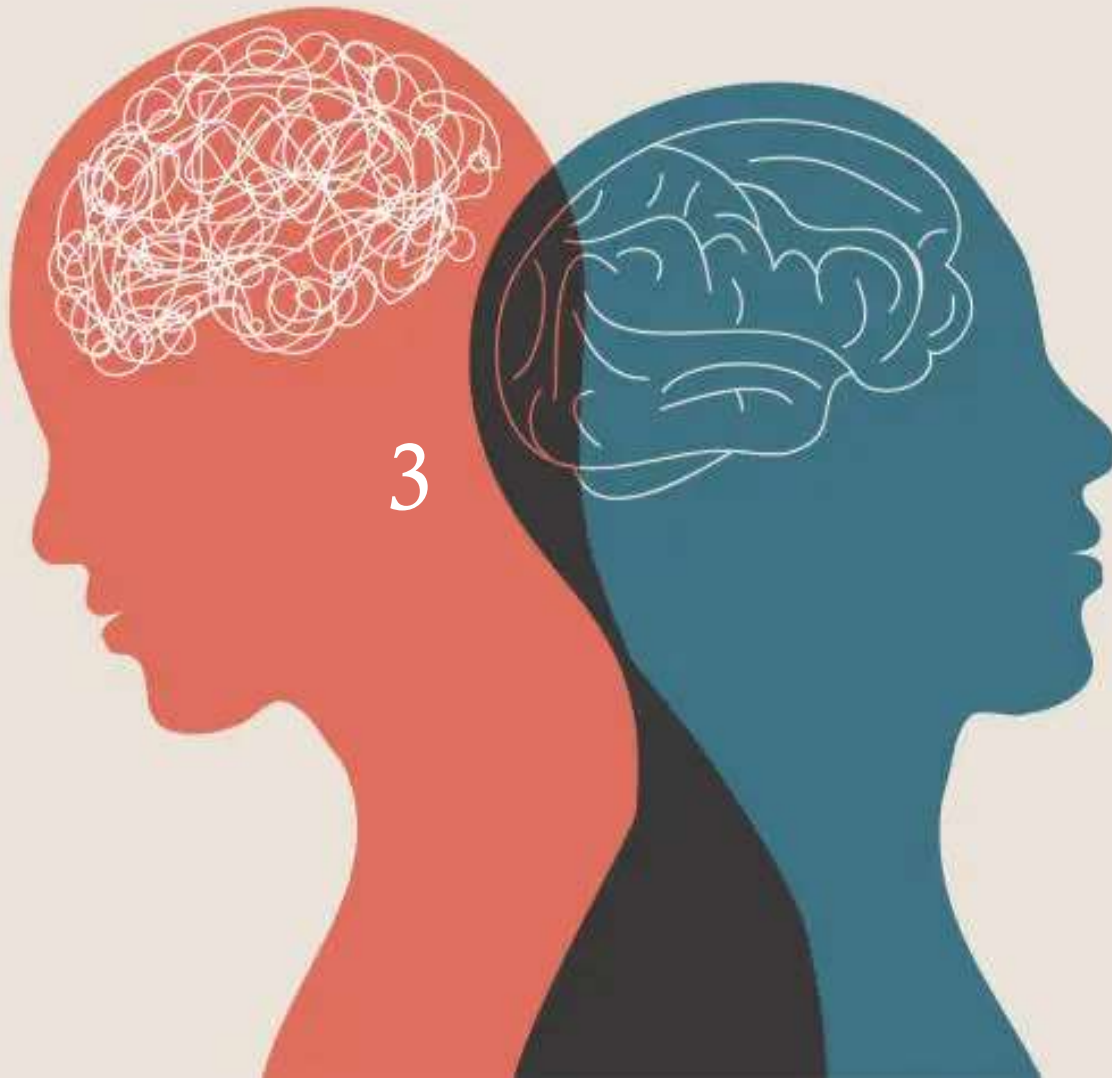
“To their joint enterprise of marriage, Father and Mother brought diversity; to each other, they brought each other; and to us, they brought a happy journey into adulthood.

“If there was a “head” of our home, I couldn’t define it. The whole thing was head and heart and always in motion. The command lay where the expertise was—or where necessity placed it.”

“Who led, who followed, and how they moved together was as undelineated as smoke and flame, but they fed each other and drew upon each other’s direction. Just as she cheered him on the field and he marveled at her ability with a poem, they reveled constantly in each other, neither threatened by the other’s difference, only relishing and capitalizing on it. They remained themselves, independent entities, finding satisfaction and accomplishment apart as well as together, but operating from a magnetic common base that always drew them home for exuberant or quiet sharing.

“Mother Killed the Rattlesnakes” by Emma Lou Thayne (*Ensign*, April 1975)

“Whatever manhood, adulthood, and priesthood Father brought to life, Mother shared; and whatever womanliness, talent, and grace she smoothed upon her hours and days, he partook of with loving kindness. And together they led us—or rather we followed—in their paths of righteousness because it all was so good. Perhaps together they joked, cajoled, urged, persuaded, and prayed us into a free choice of how and where we’d spend ourselves, but we were never aware of it. By making their world and their joint arrangement with it so joyful, *they tempted us into emulation* without a preachment or a mandate. We simply liked where they were and wanted to get there.”



Social Science of Relationships



Defensiveness

Criticism

Contempt

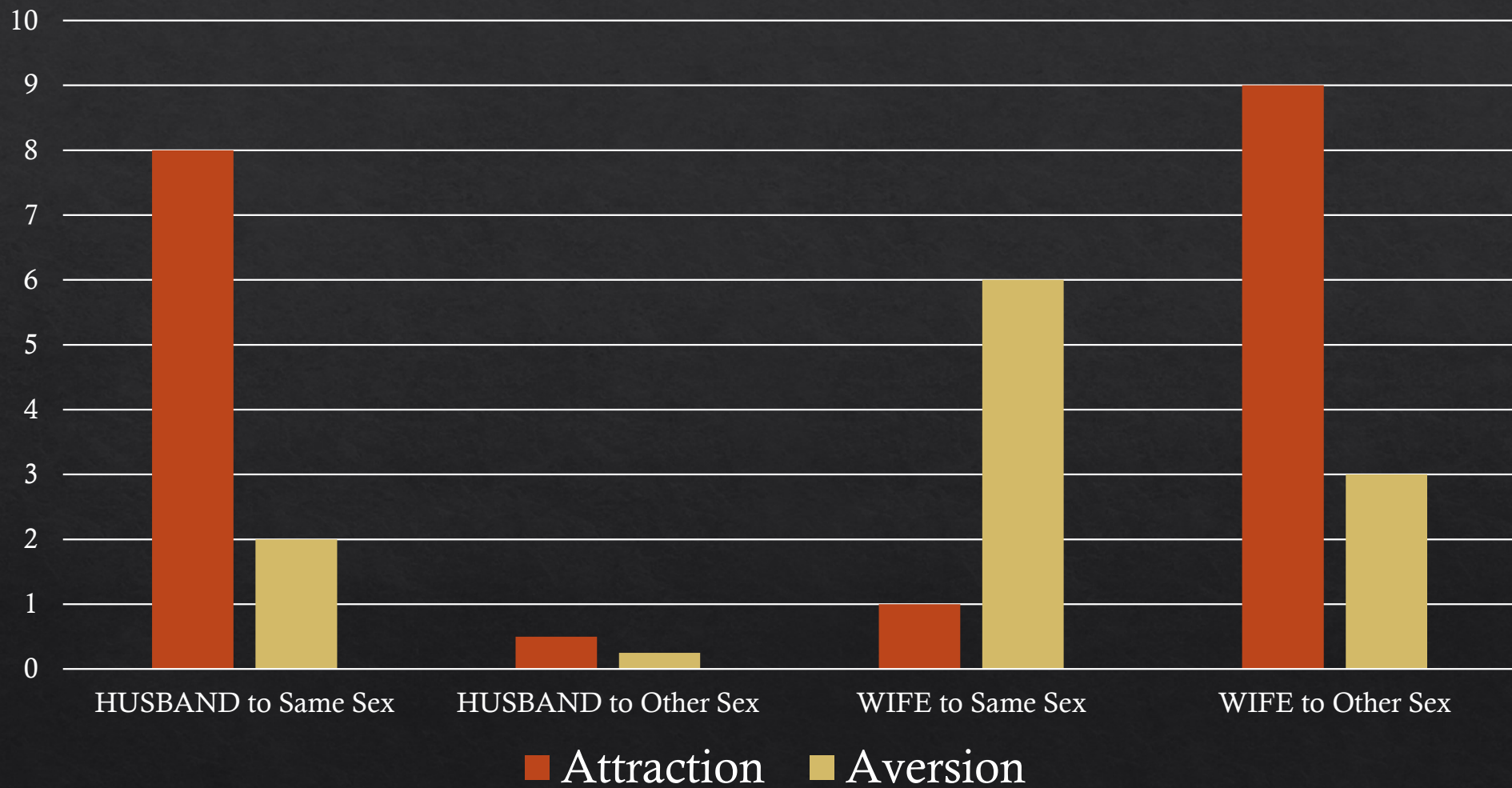
Stonewalling

Gottman's Four Horsemen



Attraction vs Aversion

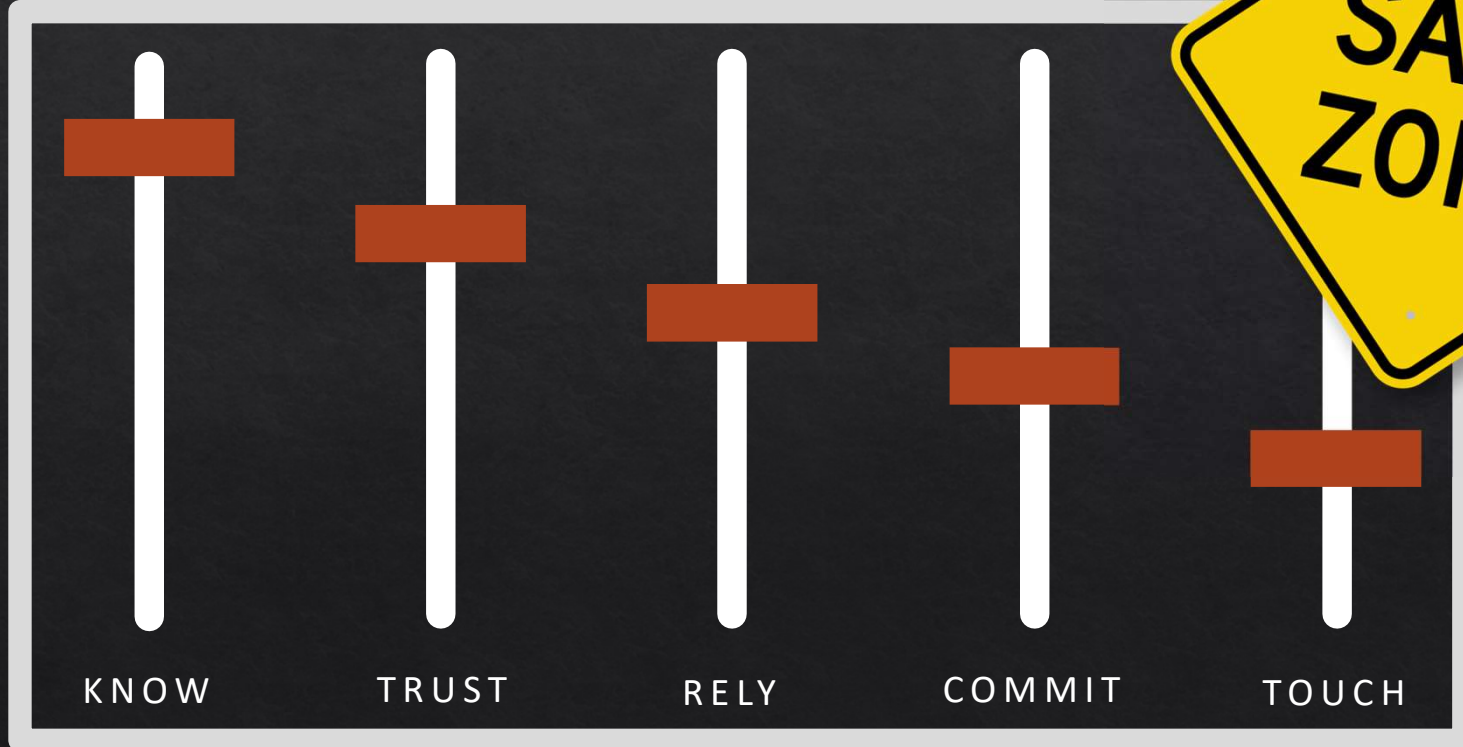




When
DATING

THE R.A.M.

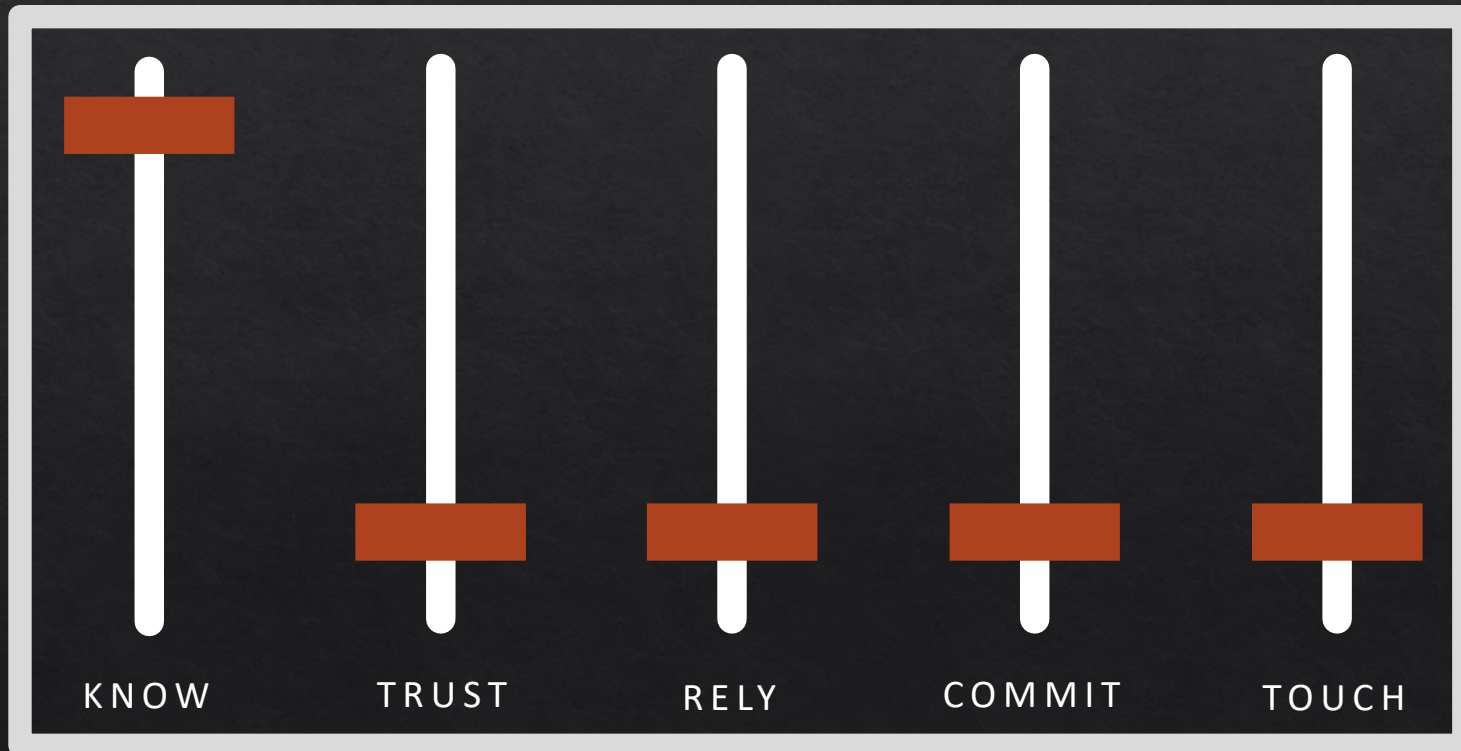
THE RELATIONSHIP ATTACHMENT MODEL



When
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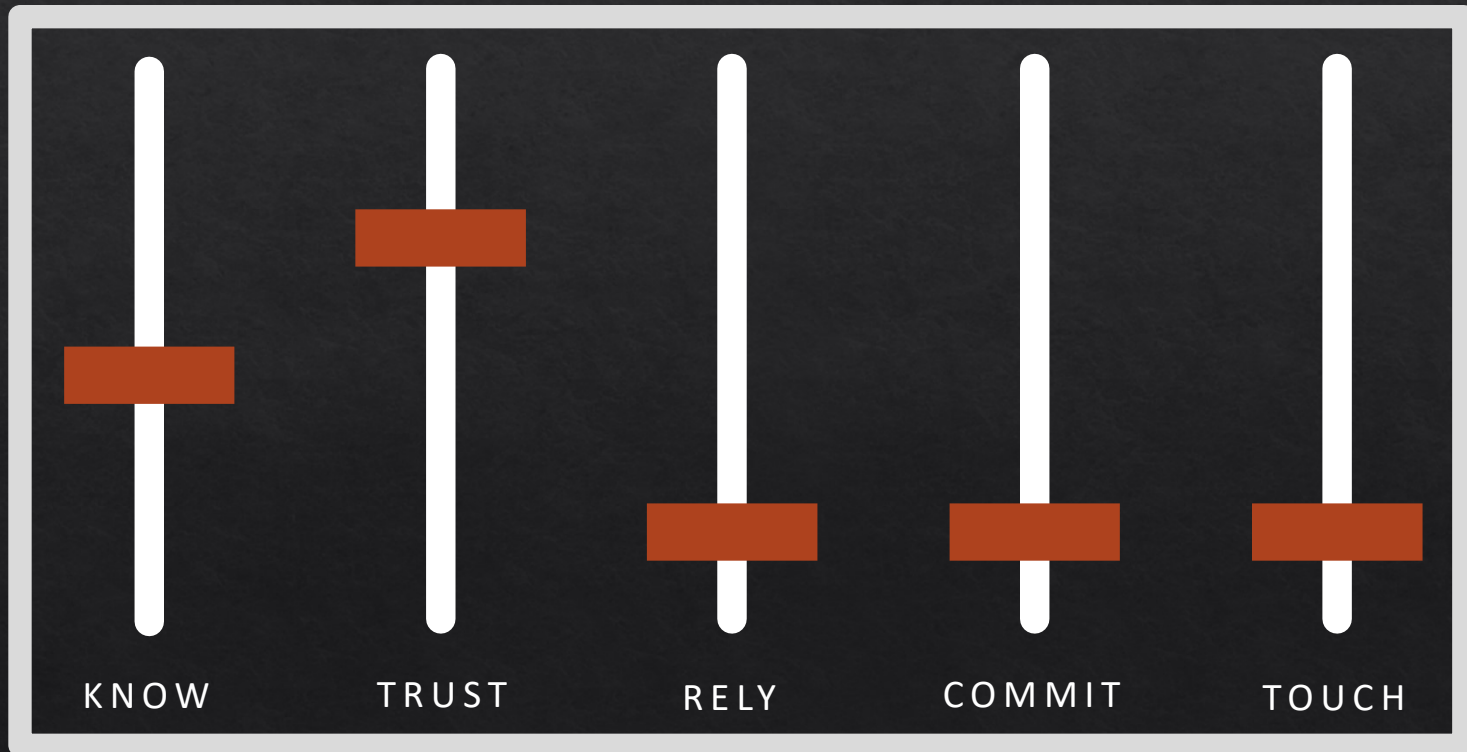
THE RELATIONSHIP ATTACHMENT MODEL



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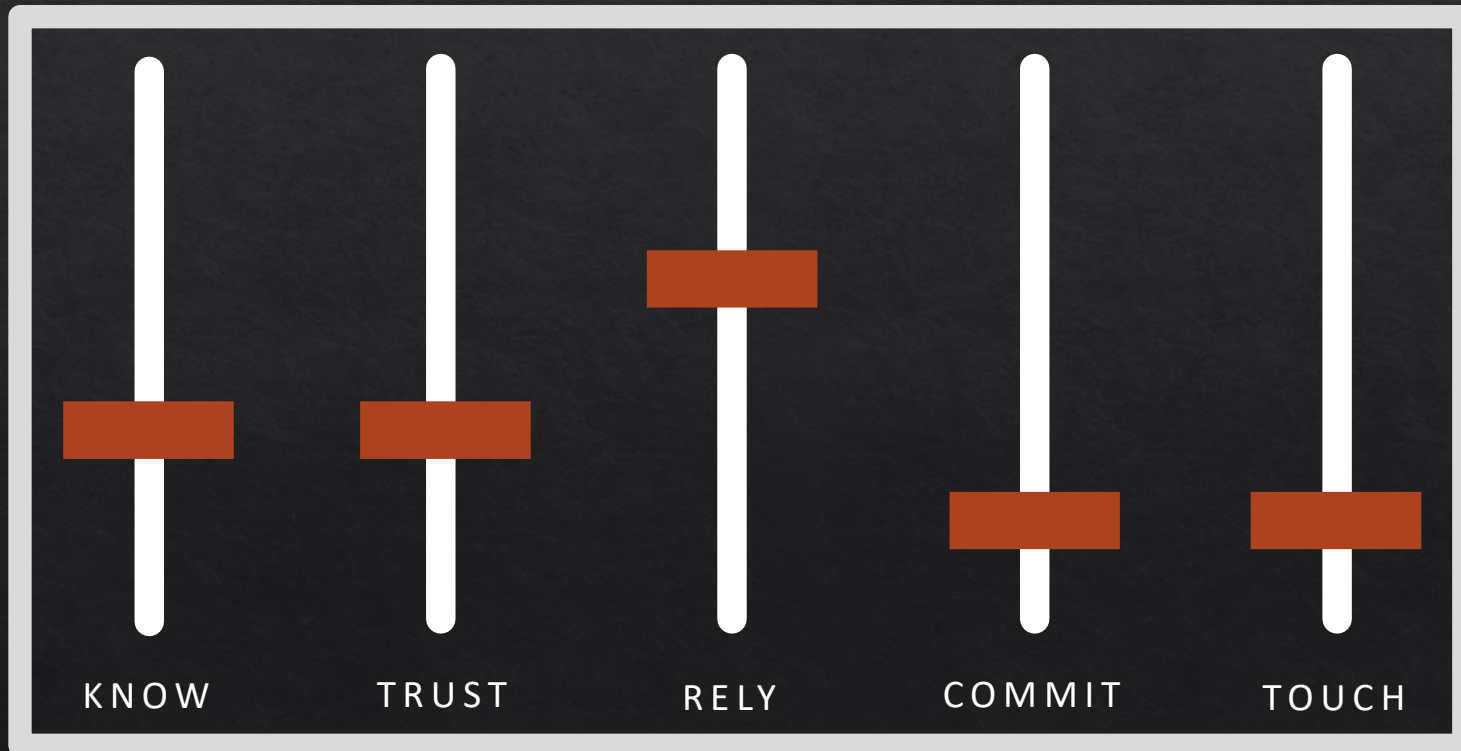
THE RELATIONSHIP ATTACHMENT MODEL



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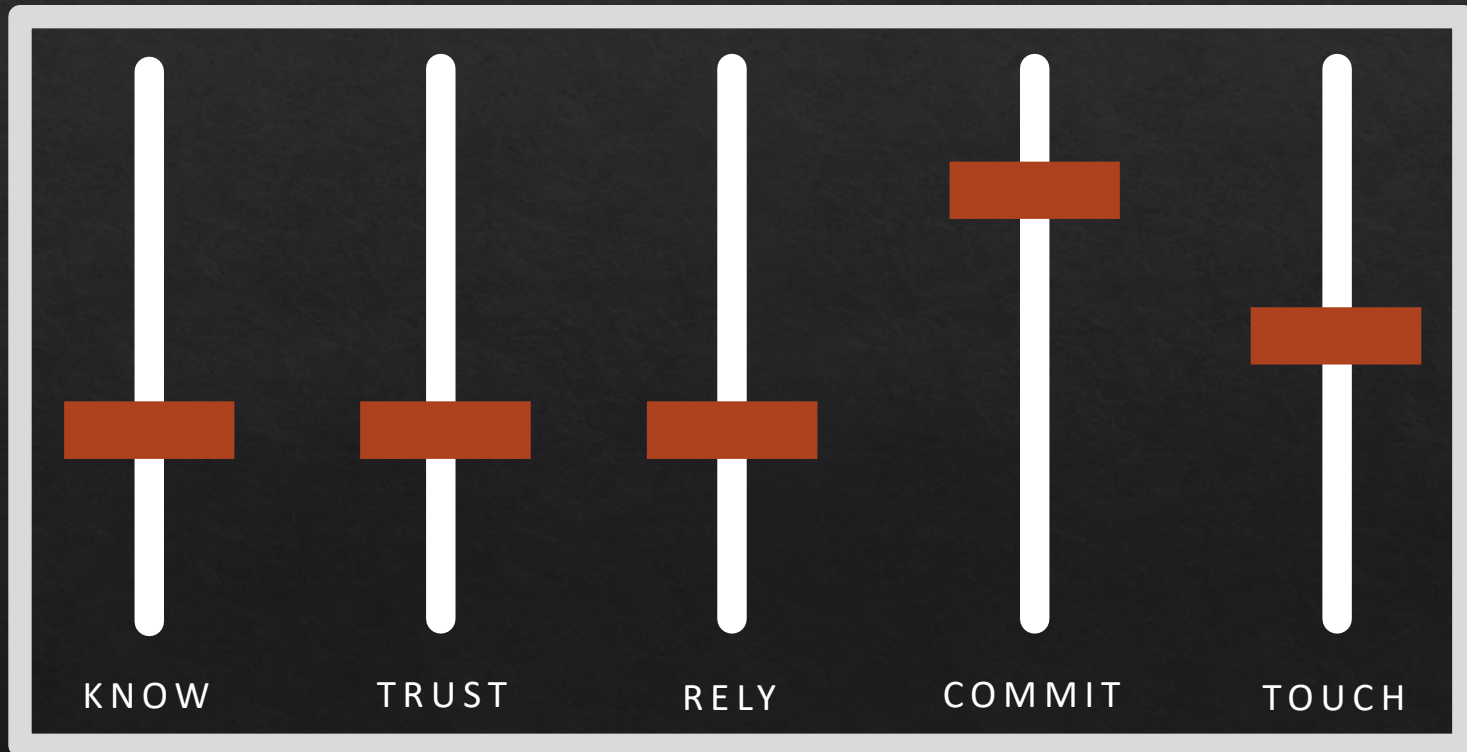
THE RELATIONSHIP ATTACHMENT MODEL



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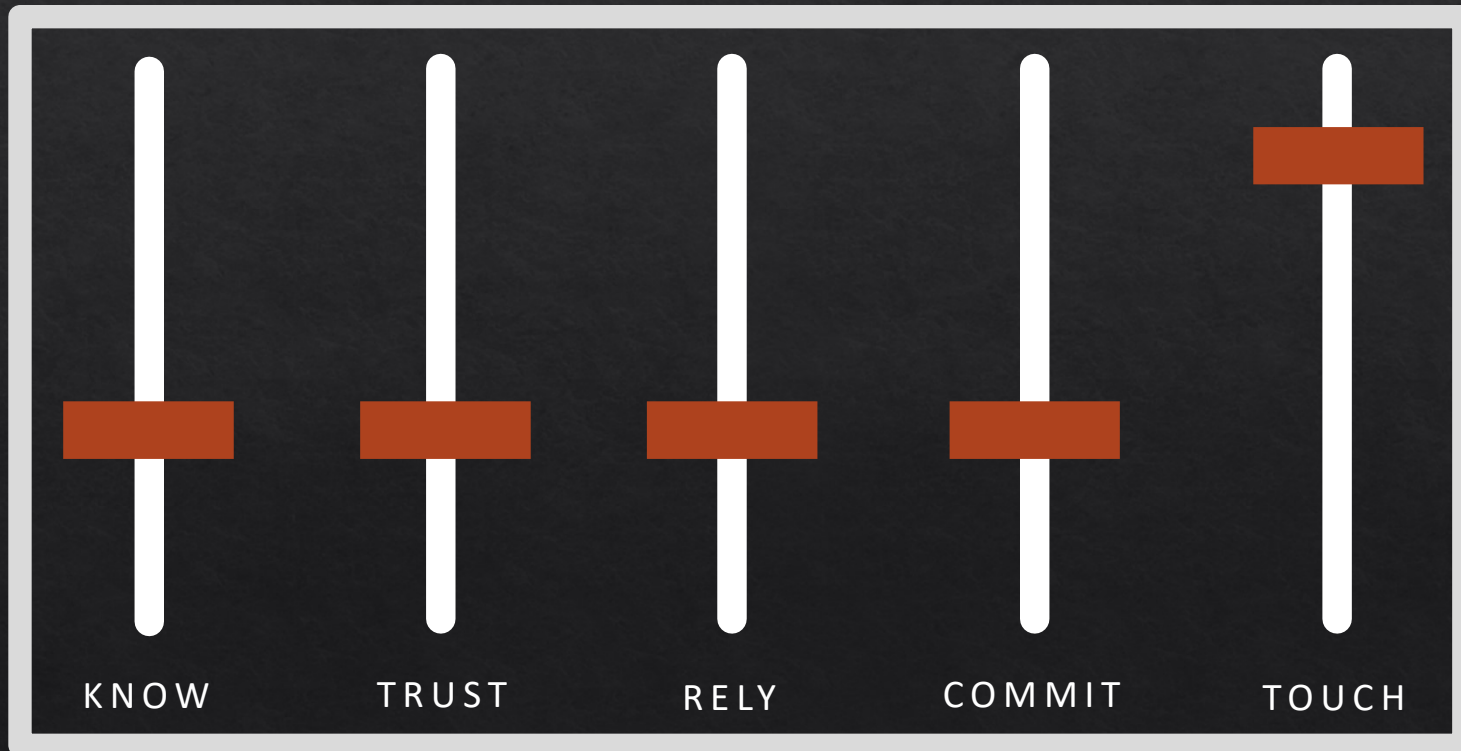
THE RELATIONSHIP ATTACHMENT MODEL



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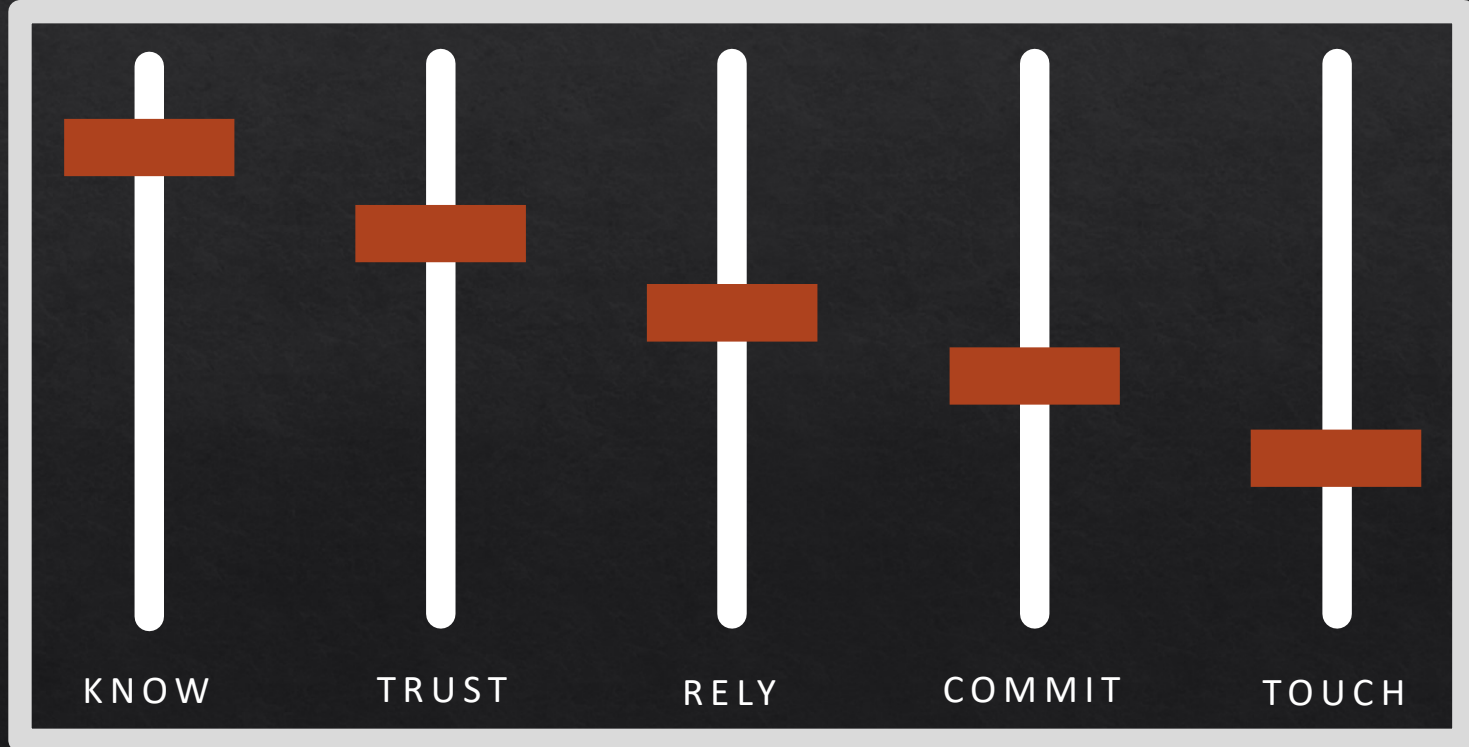
THE RELATIONSHIP ATTACHMENT MODEL



When
DATING

THE R.A.M.

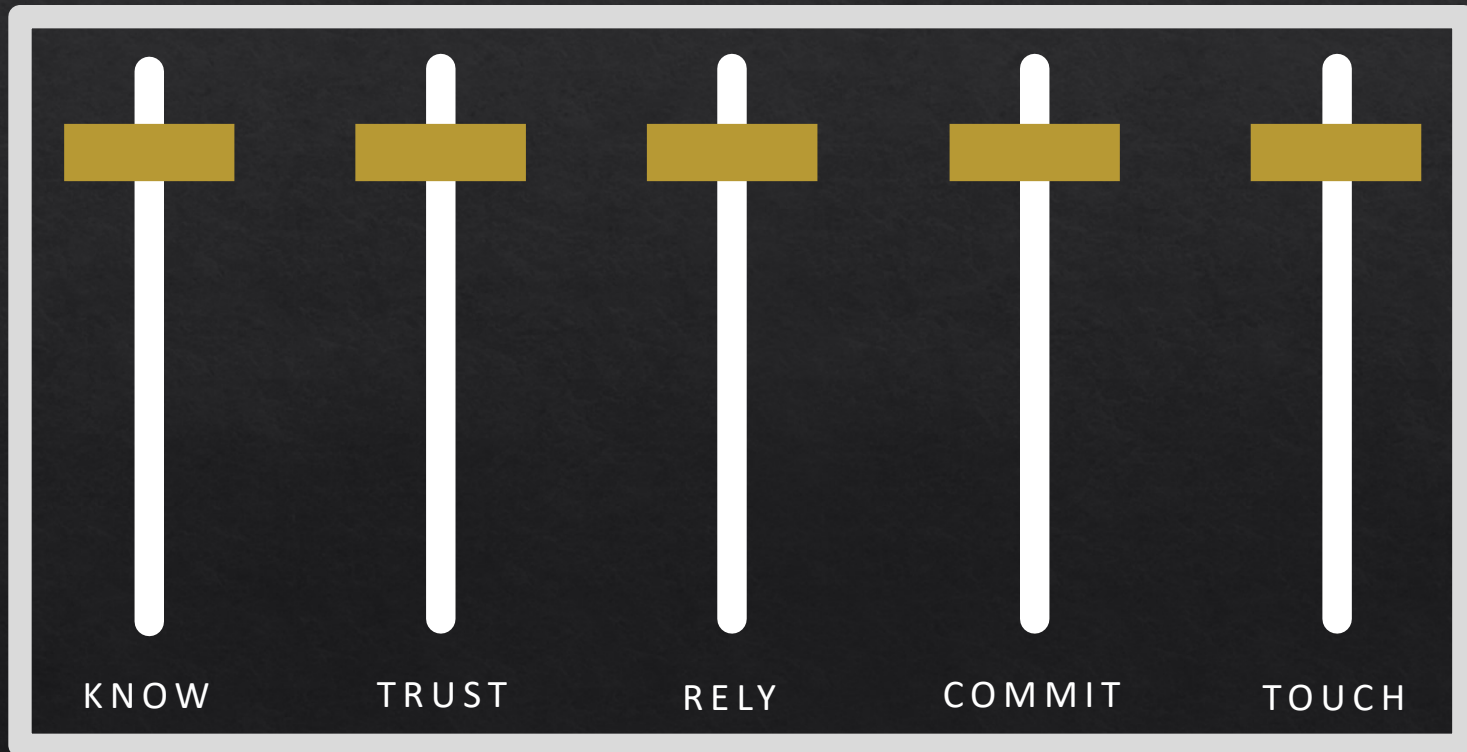
THE RELATIONSHIP ATTACHMENT MODEL



When
MARRIED

THE R.A.M.

THE RELATIONSHIP ATTACHMENT MODEL



Which marriage will struggle more and why?

HIS Sex Drive

HER Sex Drive

Marriage 1

HER Sex Drive

HIS Sex Drive

Marriage 2

Conclusion

Be careful with superlatives

An adjective or adverb,
the highest degree of comparison

2 Nephi 2

27 Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself.

28 And now, my sons, I would that ye should look to the great Mediator, and hearken unto his great commandments; and be faithful unto his words, and choose eternal life, according to the will of his Holy Spirit;

29 And not choose eternal death, according to the will of the flesh and the evil which is therein, which giveth the spirit of the devil power to captivate, to bring you down to hell, that he may reign over you in his own kingdom.

Alma 42:27

“... whosoever will come may come and partake of the waters of life freely; and whosoever will not come the same is not compelled to come; but in the last day it shall be restored unto him according to his deeds.”



Q&A

2 Nephi 2:6 and Doctrine & Covenants 93:11

“Wherefore, redemption cometh
in and through the Holy Messiah;
for he is full of **grace** and **truth**”

(love)

(law)

Father's Plan

Lucifer rejected the Father's plan and Jesus's role in it. He "was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him... for he is a liar, and the father of it." (John 8:44-45). He very well could have been the first person to ever lie to you. It caused quite the family feud, as he unfortunately amassed a sizable following, and we wept bitterly for our siblings that were deceived and rebelled. **His lies always lead to the same conclusions: exclude yourself from Father's Plan and Jesus's relentless redemptiveness** (Doctrine and Covenants 76:25-27). I have spent enough eons weeping for that spilled milk; I am much more concerned now for my siblings who are still undecided.

You were once in a similarly contentious environment with similarly eternal stakes and a similarly impending deadline. **I invite you to remember your former valiance to your Father and Elder Brother and your desires to follow Them by whatever degree.** I testify, in the name of Jesus Christ, that the Holy Ghost is eager to show you, grace for grace, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; the truth, for truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come (Doctrine & Covenants 93, particularly verse 24).