



Applying Right Relationship

Inspired by Sustainability Inside-Out™: Growth Strategies for Co-Prosperity

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Applying Right Relationship

Across Contexts

What constitutes right relationship here?

Right relationship is not expressed in exactly the same way across every domain of life. What it requires of us depends upon what we are in relationship with, what we are responsible for, and the conditions we are seeking to cultivate.

Right relationship with **self** may involve dignity, care, boundaries, truthfulness and stewardship. With **another person**, it may involve reciprocity, respect, dignity, honesty and appropriate responsibility.

In **work**, it may involve contribution, capability, integrity and stewardship.

In **service**, it may involve giving without making oneself indispensable or turning service into identity.

In **community**, it may involve participation, reciprocity and the cultivation of shared conditions.

With **the living world**, it may involve recognising interdependence rather than treating life merely as resource.

And with **God / Truth**, it may involve orientation, surrender, trust and willingness to be corrected. These relationships do not produce the same outputs. Yet they can be ordered towards a deeper question:

Does this relationship help cultivate conditions through which life, dignity, truth and right relationship can flourish?

The principles of right relationship can therefore be explored across many domains of life. The reflections that follow are illustrative rather than exhaustive — different ways of looking at the conditions in which we live, work, relate and participate.

Restoration begins with seeing

There is a discipline in what might be called “**factual observation of all factors**” — allowing ourselves to notice what is actually happening before rushing to decide what it means.

Someone may tend to respond in a particular way. A particular topic may reliably trigger something within us. We may recognise an old expectation, a longing, a fear or an attachment. We may notice

how that inner condition influences our behaviour. We may begin to see that an interaction is, or is not, appropriate without yet knowing exactly what to do about it.

We may also discover that what we thought was simple is **layered**. We might still be seeking validation from somewhere we have unconsciously made responsible for providing it. We could be looking for safety from a person, outcome or structure that cannot provide it. We might have a desire for certainty, which becomes a desire for control. Or resentment is keeping us connected to something we believe we have already released.

The invitation is first to **see what is there**. This way, restoration changes the **source and conditions from which we participate**.

From there, right relationship becomes something to discern rather than something to impose. What does dignity require here — of ourselves, of another, and of the relationship? What are we responsible for, and what is not ours to carry? What are we actually trying to cultivate?

This can bring us into contact with what still needs to be released: resentment, attachment, expectation, fear, grief, doubt, or the substitutes we have knowingly or unknowingly created in our attempts to secure what we once understood as right relationship.

Reorientation can then become more than an intellectual exercise.

We may understand that God / Truth is our source, yet still find ourselves looking elsewhere for validation, guidance, safety or certainty. The deeper question becomes whether that understanding is beginning to reach the emotional and embodied parts of us. Can we accept an unseen source? Can we surrender our demand to know or control the outcome? Can we walk by faith and not only by sight? Can we remain open to being corrected?

Trust, in this sense, is not certainty about what will happen.

It is the growing capacity to remain oriented towards what is true **without requiring visible certainty before we move**.

This is where everyday life becomes an observatory.

A difficult conversation. A message we are waiting for. A disappointment. A financial uncertainty. A rejection. An opportunity for recognition. A familiar family dynamic. Even the small moments can show us what intellectual understanding cannot. They reveal where an old orientation still lives, where ego reaches for a substitute, where fear asks us to secure ourselves, and where there is an opportunity to pause, observe and choose differently.

Right relationship cannot be performed into existence. We can learn its language, understand its principles and even behave in ways that appear aligned. But life continually reveals the deeper orientation from which we are participating. **So it is not about becoming perfect at right relationship.** It is about becoming increasingly able to **recognise what is true, notice what has become misaligned, release what no longer serves that truth, and reorient ourselves towards the source from which right relationship can emerge.**

Regeneration allows emergence

When the conditions from which we participate begin to change, what becomes possible?

What begins within the individual can therefore move into relationship, work, service, community and systems. Different ways of relating become possible. Different forms of participation become possible. Conditions that once reproduced fear, dependency, competition, control or separation may begin to give way to conditions that support dignity, trust, reciprocity, capability and life.

Context	What may be happening in the relationship	Questions for reflection	Direction of practice
Health	Relationship with my body and its conditions	What is my body communicating? What conditions support its wellbeing? What is mine to tend to, and what is outside my control?	From control → listening → care → dignity
Long-term family relationships	Relationship shaped by history, attachment and difference	What relationship has been disrupted? What truth needs acknowledgement? Can difference exist without requiring rupture? What repair is possible?	From rupture/defence → truth → repair → dignity
Work	Relationship between responsibility, contribution and burden	What am I responsible for versus what am I carrying for others? Where is burden being transferred? What boundary protects dignity and supports right relationship?	From over-carrying → discernment → boundaries → mutual responsibility
Friendships	Relationship between care, freedom and mutuality	Can I remain caring without over-functioning? What needs to be said, accepted, repaired or released?	From attachment → care → freedom → mutuality
Leadership	Relationship between power,	What conditions am I creating for others? What power or responsibility do I hold? What	From power-over → responsibility → stewardship

	responsibility and those affected by it	might I be unintentionally transferring downstream?	→ dignity
Organisations	Relationships embedded in structures and roles	Where do structures create unnecessary burden? What capabilities, relationships or conditions need restoration?	From extraction → restoration → participation → co-prosperity
Community	Relationship between belonging, difference and participation	Whose experience is visible, and whose is not? What conditions enable genuine participation?	From exclusion → recognition → participation → belonging
Systems	Relationships between upstream conditions and downstream consequences	What upstream conditions are producing downstream consequences? Where might intervention restore rather than merely compensate?	From symptom → condition → restoration → regeneration
Inner life — <i>the dimension running through all the others</i>	Relationship with self, Truth and what we are attached to	What am I attached to? What am I trying to control? What truth might I be avoiding? What would allow greater integrity and right relationship?	From self-protection → seeing → surrender → integrity

