

Personal Growth Concepts™

www.personalgrowthconcepts.com
Q&A Forum - Review

Impact of a 10 Year Age Gap in a Dating Relationship

[19-Mar-2002]

Fellow q&a-ers,

Greetings! We are up to 117 members and climbing. We welcome Eli, Jason and Heather to our list. I have no more questions left so would welcome some. A special thank you to Anna and Patty for their contributions to our bonuses today. Peace, John

Q: My question is brief, but has meaning. When dating someone does a gap of ten years in age make a difference?

A: I believe it depends on which 10 years and/or the attitude of the people involved. For instance, if I was 21 and dating someone 11..... need I say more. Also, if I were 45 and dating someone 55 - if I were comfortable and so were they, then I guess not. There are some developmental differences regarding ages and also some life experience differences i.e. one may be retired while the other continues to work. I think the key is what the attitude and concerns are of the two people dating and whether they have honestly communicated about it. I have seen situations where a 10 or more year gap in age was ok, but after the initial phase of the relationship, was used as an excuse for why the relationship wasn't or couldn't work. That is cruel and not ok. Relationships don't work because of the ages involved, but because of behaviors and baggage which one or both partners bring to the relationship and are unwilling to change/modify for the sake of the relationship. A lack of acceptance and respect for the other person are the most often reasons in my experience. Also, be cautious about listening too much to what others think. They may have some value but it is limited and secondary to what you think and feel. And remember..... love can be blind. Peace, John

Quote: "We are cups, constantly and quietly being filled. The trick is knowing how to tip ourselves over and let the Beautiful Stuff out." -- Ray Bradbury

Bonus

A young boy had just got his driver's permit and inquired of his father, an evangelist, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to the study and said to the boy, "I'll make a deal with you, son. You bring your grades up from a C to a B-average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut and we'll talk about the car."

Well, the boy thought about that for a moment and decided that he'd best settle for the offer, and they agreed. After about six weeks the boy came back and again asked his father about the car.

Again, they went to the study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You've brought your grades up, and I've observed that you've been studying your Bible and participating a lot more in the Bible study class on Sunday morning. But I'm real disappointed since you haven't got your hair cut."

The young man paused a moment and then said, "You know dad, I've been thinking about that and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, and there's even strong argument that Jesus himself had long hair."

To which his father replied, "You're right, son. Did you also notice that they all WALKED everywhere they went?"

Bonus 2

CUP OF COFFEE.....

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved a new one arose. Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first, she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs and the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil, without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me, what do you see?"

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied. She brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were

soft. She then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity--boiling water--but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But, after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened.

The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. " When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity, do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and a hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hours are the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate to another level? How do you handle adversity?

ARE YOU A CARROT, AN EGG, OR A COFFEE BEAN?

The information provided in this email is presented for educational purposes only. It is not a substitute for the advice and treatment of a licensed professional clinician, doctor, coach or pastoral counselor. To unsubscribe, type unsubscribe-Q&A in the subject line of an email back to me. jpacheco@personalgrowthconcepts.com

We wish you peace in who you are and in all that you do!

© Copyright 2004 Personal Growth Concepts