

Healthy Relationship Stages

1. *Casual: You know them and are learning more about them. Observing their characteristics; usually in a group setting.*
 - a. *Questions: Are they funny, kind, calm? How is their work ethic? Are they always in a bad mood? Are they honest, compassionate, have self-control, joyful, faithful (see Galatians 5:22-23, Fruits of the Spirit). Are they heavy drug and alcohol users? Are they late all the time? Would you introduce them to your family?*
2. *Close: They earned your trust and you are spending more one on one time with them. Learning about their values and feelings.*
 - a. *Questions: What is their passion? What do they value? Are they jealous of your other friends? What are their priorities? Do they anger easily? What are their goals/ dreams? How is their relationship with their family? Do they have a lot of exes? (if dating) Are they controlling? Are you starting to see negative patterns?*
3. *Intimate: You gained each other's trust by showing your true self and are accepting of it.*
 - a. *Questions: Are their feelings clear to you? Do they allow you to be real and honest? Can you talk to them about their strengths and weaknesses and they don't get upset? Will they accept help? Will you? (This is also the serious dating stage)*
4. *Mature: After a year or more of getting to know each other. You have earned trust and can handle conflict in a healthy and mature way.*