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### My Wednesday Thoughts

Before I begin, I must tell you this: I am voicing my opinion and my thoughts on this subject, that doesn't mean that I am right in everything but I like to talk to people about my opinions, open people's minds, open mine when I hear what they have to say on the matter. So nobody take this personally. I am writing this based on my experiences and the things that I have discussed with my friends, things that I have gotten from other people and things that I have developed in my own mind.

Relationships. Wow! That word entails so much. My life has been filled with relationships. Friends, family, girls. Which ones matter which ones don't? Who should I take seriously? Who should I get close to? Who should I keep at a distance? Which ones are truly there for me? And which ones are there only for what they can get out of it?

Before I get into why relationships do or don't work, lets talk about why we even want relationships. The basic human nature is that we don't want to go through life alone. We want people to be there for us, to call at 3 am when we can't sleep, to cry on their shoulder, to vent all of our problems to. Where is the problem in that?

The problem is people want friends of convenience, relationships of convenience. They want people to be there when THEY need help, or someone to talk to, but they don't return the same. When you need them, they very simply, don't return the same. Then there are those that do return it. Sometimes we take them for granted. So how much do we forgive and look over, and, not to be too blunt, but how much do we suffer to remain close to these people.

I look at relationships at what am I getting out of it. Not material or emotional, but am I growing and learning from this person. Or when I meet someone what can I gain from being close to this person? Are they going to expand my mind or drag me down? I will not be close to someone who will bring me down, but those who expand my mind I will want more and more and more time with. Unfortunately I don't find a lot of people that expand my mind. People are more rapped up in hanging out, drinking, being young that they don't have a mind anymore, just what society tells them that they should have. They think as they are told. Molded to what everyone else expects us to be. I SAY FUCK THAT!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Don't shun anything that you are told, but take, learn what you can, decide for yourself, DON'T GET BRAINWASHED!!!! That is exactly what society does.

Ok, I went off on a tangent, but I don't mean to sound pessimistic, I guess I am to a certain degree. I love people! I am a people person, but people hurt. Any time that you let someone into your life, you give them the opportunity to hurt you. Most of the time you get hurt, and people disappoint you. It is expected and accepted that people are going to let you down. It is one of those things that you don't talk about but it is the truth.

Some people depend on other people for happiness. Others can't find happiness in anything. Some turn to drugs, alcohol, cutting as coping with their problems. But they are never truly happy. Someone told me "Happiness is based on what happens, Joy is what you find in yourself". Wow, I had never thought of it that way. But it is the truth. It hit

me like a bread truck!!!! Do I depend on others to make me happy? Can I be alone and still be happy? The answer that I found is yes. Not because I am being self righteous, but that I am comfortable with who I am. I am ready to share that with someone. I am at the point where I am ready to open up to someone and share my life with them. That is good for me, but many other people aren't at the level yet.

Relationships are supposed to be a two lane highway. We are to give and receive 50/50. In most relationships there is a giver and there is a taker. One person gives everything and the other takes everything. Why is that? Why do people not realize that if you give everything, then you have nothing left for yourself and nothing left for anyone else, other than the individual that is taking. If you take everything, than bottom line, you are a self centered individual. You obviously don't know what you have when you have it. Other times you have people that give and take equally and there is no sharing. It is either I give and you take or vice versa. I can see this as walls. You don't share because there is something else in the way. Maybe one of you or both is afraid of getting hurt or maybe you don't know how to share, maybe you were never taught.

So where do we go from here? What have we learned?

People are going to hurt us.

People are selfish.

People don't want to be alone.

But what are the upsides here? When you find someone who you can share with, not just little things, but everything don't close off. Don't put up walls, you could be missing out on the best thing that ever happened to you. And for those of us who open up over and over and we keep getting hurt, remember, if you are closed off no one can hurt you. But if you close yourself off, you don't experience the best things in life. Love, sharing, companionship, true growth, experience, knowledge, wisdom; all things that you get from others, and the more you are open the more you gain. You close off, you are missing out. I can't live that way. I will pick my friends and loved ones with care, and I will get burned. I expect it, I accept it. I will learn grow and mature because of it. I hope if nothing else that my little essay here will make you think, even if you think it is bullshit. Just remember people don't make your world, you do. But while we are here lets share what we learn. Instead of holding up walls lets tear them down, learn a new acceptance for people. A new love for people. Lets give all we have and take only what we need. We hurt each other too much, and help each other too little.

To all the people that know that I love them, I hope you are all in my life to share it with me when things are difficult and when things are good. Let us grow together as friends, lovers, companions, and most of all children of GOD!

To anyone else who I have met and maybe I haven't. Take this chance to reflect on who you are, and then who you portray that you are. The first time you meet someone is the biggest bullshit! You hear all the good stuff and none of the bad. That comes with time, but if you desire to grow, dig under that outer shell and for those that share with you learn

from them. If you don't then I pity you. You will have a closed minded existence, and maybe even a lonely one.

To God, Thank you

Also I forgot one thank you. And rather ironic it is probably the biggest. This person has inspired me to speak what I think, and be truthful to myself and thereby grow with the people who are truly my friends. Thank you Joy

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joy". The signature is written in black ink on a white background. It features a large, sweeping initial 'J' followed by a series of connected loops and a long, horizontal tail stroke that extends to the right.