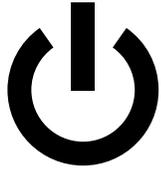


Speaker: Dustin Zerwas

Title: Assembly Required

Key Verses: Proverbs 1:1 – 7; 3:4–6; 17:3; 19:11; Lam. 3:22–33; Matt. 6:33

Summary: Prioritizing God makes our good, bad, and ugly relationships better.



Power Up: Take a moment to prepare

Relationships grow in complexity as we age. Reflect on your childhood friendships. Consider what started and sustained friendships. Describe how friendships in adolescence and adulthood has changed.



Replay: Take some time to watch

Note the flow of Dustin's talk: **1)** good relationships require grit; **2)** good relationships begin with God **a)** every day, **b)** every decision, **c)** in every disagreement, and **d)** in every difficulty; **3)** questions and resources.



Comment: Take some time to talk

Dustin opens with an exercise. Take 2–3 minutes to list names in the three categories he provides: good, bad, and ugly relationships.

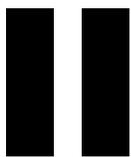
Dustin distinguishes between relationships and intimacy. **How are they different? Which is preferred?** Explain.

Read Proverbs 1:2–7. How is the Bible like a manual? What are some key instructions it provides for good relationships?

What are typical qualities of good relationships? What often threatens good relationships? What characteristics do bad relationships have?

What are your highest priorities? Where does God fit into the list?

Dustin stresses the importance of beginning with God. **What are four ways you can begin with Him? How well are you doing with each way?**



Pause: Take a moment to pray

Thank God for relating to you. Thank Him for knowing you, loving you, and pursuing you. Ask Him for grit to give more wholeheartedly to your key relationships. Ask Him for wisdom to seek Him every day.



Take Action: Take a step forward

Dedicating our day to God can set us up for healthier relationships. His mercies are new every morning! Take Dustin's suggestion to set aside the first fifteen minutes of the day to spend time with God. Read a chapter of Proverbs and ask Him for direction in all your relationships for the day.

Bonus Features | Additional Notes and Quotes from Dustin Zerwas

Power Track Summary: Are you in a relationship? Are you satisfied with the conditions of your relationships? Are you interested in unlocking the true potential of your relationships? There are a variety of tools that can help you assemble your relationships, but it will take grit and determination. The main question to ask is, where do I start? This Power Track will equip you with essential, relational tools.

About the Speaker: Dustin Zerwas is a husband, father, youth pastor, Florida resident, and tech-lover; his family is so big that he drives a 15-passenger van.

“Relationships are not the same as intimacy...Relationships take grit and determination... Sometimes we think they should just work by virtue of being in them. Sometimes we just coast. And those are the times relationships fall apart.”

Four Ways to Assemble Good Relationships

1. **Begin with God Every Day.**

“A manual is used to complete a task. We are not done here on planet Earth until we get to Heaven. So the Bible is our manual. It is the place to go to for instruction and guidance. And we are never finished.”

“We begin with God. This is a relationship that transforms everything else in life.”

“We put things in the wrong priority, they begin to shift and get out of place.”

“A lot of students say, ‘I open up my Bible but I didn’t get much out of it.’ Don’t be deceived. God uses that time by putting things in your heart that He may draw out later... God gives us new mercies every day.” (see [Lamentations 3:22-23](#))

2. **Begin with God in Every Decision.**

Major decisions we face: Whom will I marry? Where will I go to college? What job should I get?

[Proverbs 3:4-6](#) teaches God will direct our decisions when we seek Him.

3. **Begin with God in Every Disagreement.**

[Proverbs 19:11](#) teaches God can give us wisdom in our relational tensions.

4. **Begin with God in Every Difficulty.**

“It’s not a matter of IF, but WHEN difficulties will come.”

[Proverbs 17:3](#) teaches God places the greatest treasures in our lives when we face difficulty.

Additional Resources for Students: *Single, Dating, Engaged, and Married* (Stuart); *Everyone Always* (Goff)

Additional Resources for Leaders: *So the Next Generation Will Know* (McDowell & Wallace); *Marching Off the Map* (Elmore)