

Relationships are delicate. Defined by Google, a relationship is the way in which two or more concepts, objects, or people are connected, or the state of being connected. Think of the relay races in which we all partook in elementary school. The three legged race seemed to always be on the agenda. On a good day, one of your legs was connected to your best friend's, but on others you might have been put with the boy who pushed you at recess or the girl who put gum in your hair last week. But, during that moment of realizing who you were paired with for the three legged race, who the partner was didn't really matter. What mattered was that you were going to win that three legged race, and in doing so, you tried your best to not just coexist with your leg tied to a stranger, but to develop a relationship in working together towards a common mission of passing that finish line first.

Why would we treat relationships in our everyday life differently? Of course we have the people in our life that we may not always agree with, but this doesn't mean that it is not possible to accomplish something because of their presence. What is the use of arguing rather than compromising; complaining rather than contributing; or picking greed over charity? There is no good answer, but to answer *why* we do choose arguing, complaining, or greed over the others, all I can say is that we are all born selfish. We continue to be selfish until we force onto ourselves difference in habit, and to do so we must recognize faults in our current habits for the greater good of a common mission.

Finding common missions and working together is much more complex in life than in a three legged race. Rather than a mission of passing the finish line first we have missions of race equality, LGBT equality, peaceful coexistence of religions, erasing hunger, decreasing poverty, environment protection, and so many other things that require breaking down so many barriers including unifying groups of people with difference in ideology and opinion. It is not always

clear the importance of unity, because we were born selfish. It is easier to live inside ourselves rather than take in and try to understand the world around us. I disagree with the phrase “ignorance is bliss”, because accepting ignorance is like accepting the world’s problems around us. I think we should look at the world with our eyes wide open in hope of gaining understanding. Understanding breaks down complexity, and soon helps us analogate common missions in life to a three legged race, and by doing this, we could accomplish so much more through compromise, contribution of ideas, and giving to charity. I’m Sydney Pratt, and I believe in approaching life like a three legged race.