

SGI President Ikeda's Recent Guidance on Relationships

- There are many kinds of friendship. Some friendships last a lifetime. But there are also friendships that endure only for a certain time — it might be 20 years, five years or one year. Sometimes your feelings may not change, but the other person's do. You don't have to be obsessed with the idea that friendship must last a lifetime. A friendship still has meaning even if it lasts only a short while. The main thing is that you respond with sincerity to each encounter. (Jan. 17 *World Tribune*, p. 10)
- If you genuinely love someone, then through your relationship with him or her, you can develop into a person whose love extends to all humanity. Such a relationship serves to strengthen, elevate and enrich the inner realm of your life. Ultimately, the relationships you form are a reflection of your own state of life. (Jan. 31 *World Tribune*, p. 9)
- It is demeaning to be constantly seeking your partner's approval. Such a relationship is bereft of real caring, depth or even love. If you find yourself in a relationship where you are not treated the way your heart says you should be, I hope you will have the courage and dignity to decide that you are better off risking the scorn of your partner than enduring an unhappy relationship. (Jan. 31 *World Tribune*, p. 9)
- Real love is not two people clinging to each other; it can only be fostered between two strong people secure in their individuality. A shallow person will have only shallow relationships. If you want to experience real love, it is important to first sincerely develop a strong self-identity. (Jan. 31 *World Tribune*, p. 9)

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