

Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets

Session 6

The Relationship Question – What does love *require* of me?

Overview

5 questions will be at the heart of this study.

1. The Integrity Question – Am I being honest with myself?
2. The Legacy Question – What story do I want to tell?
3. The Conscience Question – Is there a tension that deserves my attention?
4. The Maturity Question – What is the wise thing to do?
5. The Relationship Question – What does love require of me?

Session Overview

Relationships are built on mutual honor and respect, not rules. And that brings us at last to our final question: The Relationship Question.

This question paves the path to relational health but doesn't guarantee the other person will choose to walk it with you – it lays a foundation for mutually beneficial relationships but comes with no promise the other party will choose to build on it.

This clarifying, but terrifying questions should stand guard over our consciences. It should serve as guide, signpost, and compass as we navigate the unavoidable complexities inherent in every relationship. It should inform how we date, parent, boss, manage, and coach. It should form a perimeter around what we say and do in our roles as spouses, coworkers, and neighbors.

It's a question that introduces inescapable clarity to just about every moral, ethical, and relational decision you will bump up against. Our final question takes us to the heart of Jesus' new covenant command – the standard by which his followers are required to evaluate their behavior, conversations, and attitudes. – a question I'm quick to invite even religious skeptics to adopt because of its relationally healing properties and potential. – **What does love require of me?**

Questions

1. The first four questions come with a guaranteed return on investment. What makes the Relationship Question the least certain and most demanding of all 5 questions?
2. Why was Jesus' new command regarding love so revolutionary?
3. The apostle Paul lists these attributes of love in relationships: kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). Which of these comes easiest to you – and which do you need God's help with most? Why?
4. In I Corinthians 13:4-8, Paul provides a more detailed description of what love is. He ends the list with this phrase: "Love never fails." In a world of broken relationships and promises" how is this statement true?
5. Do you tend to expect others to demonstrate a more selfless, extravagant love toward you than you generally feel is required of you? Why might this be the case?

Concluding Thoughts

Think back to your most recent conflict with a family member or significant other.

Would the tone and temperature of that conversation have been different if both parties had pre-decided not to be self-seeking and to protect the relationship at all costs? Deciding ahead of time to protect the integrity of a relationship redefines what it means to win.

Love doesn't seek to win the argument. Love seeks to protect the relationship

Besides, nobody ever *wins* an argument when family is involved. I've seen too many parents *win* all the arguments and *lose* their kids in the process.

Can you think of a time where you won “the battle” but lost “the war”?
What can you do differently to protect relationships and the things that truly matter rather than focusing on minutiae?