

Saturday

Look over the notes from last weekend. What points stood out to you? How can you apply them? Please pray for the exciting World Outreach Week starting today!

Pray that we would all be open to ways God would want to change our lives.



PART 3

Five Questions That Will Transform Your Relationships

JANUARY 12 & 13, 2013 • RENÉ SCHLAEFFER

Finally, everyone must live in harmony, be sympathetic... *1 Peter 3:8a GWT*

Five questions to develop harmony and sympathy...

1. _____ ?

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a **longing fulfilled** is a tree of life.
Proverbs 13:12 NV

2. _____ ?

Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ loved** the church and gave himself up for her. *Ephesians 5:25*

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also **to the interests of others**. Your attitude should be **the same as that of Christ Jesus**: Who, being in very nature God, ... made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness... he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! *Philippians 2:5–8*

Five Languages of Love

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Source: *The Five Love Languages*,
Dr. Gary Chapman

3. _____ ?

Therefore **confess your sins to each other** and pray for each other **so that you may be healed**. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.
James 5:16

A man who **refuses to admit his mistakes** can never be successful...
Proverbs 28:13 LB

The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment will finally have nothing worthwhile left... *Proverbs 11:29 LB*



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4. _____ ?

If you **profit from constructive criticism**, you will be elected to the wise man's hall of fame. But **to reject criticism is to harm yourself** and your own best interest. *Proverbs 15:31 LB*

A dull axe requires great strength; be wise and sharpen the blade.
Ecclesiastes 10:10

5. ASK YOURSELF:

_____ ?
If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
Each one should test his own actions... *Galatians 6:3-4a*

The Communication Equation:

- 7% is _____ : Message content
- 38% is _____ : Tone of voice
- 55% is _____ : gestures, facial expression

Source: Albert Mehrabian, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, UCLA

Key thought:

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. *Ephesians 5:31-32*

The secret of finding true love is discovering _____

Daily Meditations

Monday

Read Proverbs 13:12. Spend some time considering your own hopes and expectations. For example: Whether you are married or single, talk to God about your expectations of the week. What will make this week a success?

If you are married or dating, discuss with one another your expectations about your time together this week. If you have a family, discuss with them everyone's hopes and expectations about the evenings this week, and about your plans for the weekend. Clarifying previously unstated expectations really does help to avoid conflict, and it also helps to fulfill dreams!

Ask God to give you patience as He meets your needs in His perfect timing!

Tuesday

Read 1 Corinthians 13. How does this description of love match the way you show love to your own family and friends? In which area are you strongest? In which area would you most like to see growth?

Now look at the list of five "love languages". Which love language is most meaningful to you? Your spouse? Your children? Your friends?

Whether married or single, how can you show love to the closest people in your life in the way they find most meaningful?

Thank God that He communicates His love to you incarnationally; that is, in ways we can understand and benefit from! Ask Him to help you become more like Him in love!

Wednesday

Read Colossians 3:12-15, James 5:16 and Proverbs 28:13. Why is it sometimes hard to apologize? Why is it sometimes hard to forgive? In the Colossians passage, what does Paul suggest is our motivation for forgiving others?

Ask your spouse or your friends if there is anything you have done that is causing resentment or bitterness.

Ask God to show you if you need to apologize to a family member or friend. If so, please do so quickly! Thank God for His love and forgiveness of you!

Thursday

Read Proverbs 15:31. Is it hard for you to accept criticism? Why or why not? Why do you think we sometimes choose to avoid the small sting of criticism now than the larger pain of failure later? Ask your spouse or other friends and family members the fourth question in the message. Don't get defensive — just ask for clarification if needed.

Ask God to show you how to improve your relationships — in His strength!

Friday

Read Galatians 6:3-4. Today ask yourself the fifth question. What is it like having me as... a friend, a spouse, a co-worker?

Ask God to show you ways you can become more Christ-like. Thank Him for His grace and strength to do this!



Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus... *Philippians 2:5-6a*