



1



2

Hard Questions

What we can do to change our lives?

Ephesians 4:15

“15 but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom **the whole body**, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the **proper working of each individual part**, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

3

Change starts with looking at life from the right context.

Living under the NEW COVENANT means giving special attention to the New Testament.

The inner - heart

This is where the N.C. gives attention to ethics

We can't have the leaves & fruit without the root.

The outer - behavior

This is where the O.C. gives attention to ethics

The leaves & fruit are the way the tree is identified.

4

Change requires that we:

Know who we **SHOULD BE**.

2 Corinthians 4:4

“the gospel of the glory of Christ, **who is the image of God.**”

John 1:9

“There was the true light which, coming into the world, **enlightens every man.**”

Change needs a clear vision of what we are called to be.

Jesus models for us what it means to be human.

1. Study Jesus' example and Spirit.

5

Change requires that we:

Know who we **SHOULD BE** & also Know who we **ARE**.

1 John 3

“2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, **when He appears, we shall be like Him**, because we shall see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him **purifies himself, just as He is pure.**”

2. Audit our life against the model of Jesus.

6



7

Romans 5:8
“while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”

Depravity

Inheritance from Adam & our experience in a broken world are forces that have shaped our lives.

Thank God for the pain and shame that can lead us to the Cross of Christ.

Dignity

Imputation of Christ's righteousness to us by faith along with our personalities frame our lives.

Thank God for the hope and righteousness that we find in Christ by faith.

8

Who are we?

Made in the Image of God

with a fallen nature

and at differing levels of maturity

with a common Antenna and Appetite

with a unique Temperament and History

9

The “Body of Christ” is critical to knowing God, ourselves, & each other.

	Known by self	Hidden from self
Known to others	Public self	Blind spots
Hidden from others	Secret self	Unknown self

The Johari Window
by Joseph Luft and Harry Ingham.

3. Seek out & listen to what others see in us.

10

Realize that we can't change what we don't recognize or are ashamed to admit.

Others are:

- legalistic
- vindictive
- fearful
- careless
- selfish
- wasteful
- materialistic

Proverbs 21:2
“Every man's way is right in his own eyes,”

I am:

- disciplined
- principled
- cautious
- flexible
- conservative
- generous
- tasteful

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If you don't know how to do this then watch someone who does.

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*"Red lights" on our soul's dashboard
draw attention to what needs to
change under the hood.*

Anxiety
is a negative audit
of the future.
"Something awful
will happen."



Anger
is a negative
audit of the past.
"Something awful
has happened."

- **Shame** -
"I blew it."
- **Blame** -
"Someone else
blew it."

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4. Read the signs of an INNER need for change.



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5. Treat a baptismal covenant like you would treat a marriage covenant or legal contract.



Baptism does not call
you to think less
of yourself
**but think
of yourself
positively -**

- as an **ANointed**
child of God "in Christ"
- strong, at peace, and
courageous.

- as an **ALIEN**,
not at home in this
world, nor placing your
hope, or finding your
peace there.

- as an **AMBASSADOR**
to this world where the
light within you eclipses
the fire around you.

15

Why doesn't God remove our bad circumstances?

He shows up in **the way we respond.**

Circumstances are a **context for witness**
to our faith, hope, peace, and love.

God takes our **baptismal covenant**
seriously and calls us to be a
witness to this world of
a peace it can't give
or take away.



Healings were **SIGNS** not solutions!

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**A common
assumption**

If you want social
peace you need
a just society.

**It should be
reversed**

Without inner
peace there will be
no social justice.

17

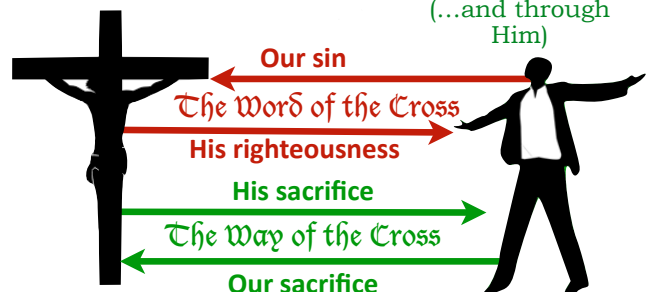
Great exchanges

2 Corinthians 5:21

"He made Him who
knew no sin to be
sin on our behalf,



so that we might
become the
righteousness
of God **in Him.**
(...and through
Him)



18



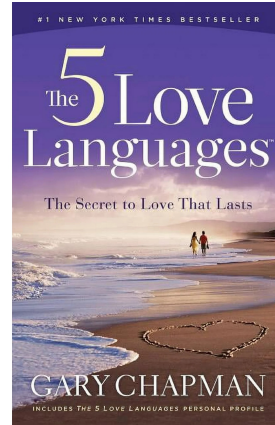
Do unto others
as you would have
them do unto you.

Treat others with the same **understanding and respect** that you would like to have from them.

We are not all alike

in that we have differing needs,
temperaments, and preferences.

19



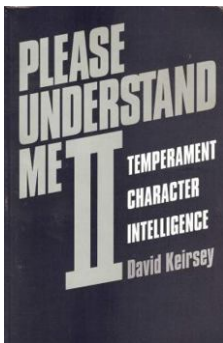
Five love languages

1. Words of Affection
2. Acts of Service
3. Receiving Gifts
4. Quality of Time
5. Physical Touch

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6. Take a "soul scan" that will help us understand the structure of our heart and that of others.

A helpful soul scanner



4 temperament groups

Knowers

NT (head)	NF (heart)
SJ (goal)	SP (action)

Doers

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Our temperament is shaped by:

E (extrovert)	How we gather data	I (introvert)
Sociability		Solitude
S (sensing)	How we sort data	N (intuitive)
Practical		Idealistic
T (thinking)	How we interpret data	F (Feeling)
Objective		Subjective
J (judging)	How we respond to data	P (process)
Closure		Open

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Sixteen temperament types

iNTJ "Every thing can be improved"	eNTJ "Follow me or get out of the way"	iNFJ "An inspiration to others"	eNFJ "Smooth talking persuader"
iNTP "I love to solve problems"	eNTP "Exciting challenges never end"	iNFP "Noble service to aid society"	eNFP "Giving life an extra hug"
iSFJ "A high sense of duty"	eSFJ "The world's hostess"	iSFP "Sees much but shares little"	eSFP "You only go around once in life"
iSTJ "Doing what should be done"	eSTJ "Life's administrator"	iSTP "Ready to try anything once"	eSTP "The ultimate realist"

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One Spirit in the diverse Body of Christ.

Romans 12:6

"And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to **the proportion of his faith**;"

Temperamental diversities are a part of God's design and represent the Image of God when they are used in the context of

faith

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Remember

7. *Concentrate on our RESPONSE to the ups & downs of life, more than the circumstances.*

Commitment to:

Public
Caring
Respect and
care for all.

Personal
Contentment
Be at peace in
all situations.

Social conflict is not only inevitable (Matthew 24)
it is healthy when conducted with respect (Acts 15).

Conflict YES

Combat NO!

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AGAPE LOVE is a free choice
to move toward someone's soul
with a self sacrificing commitment
to help them reach the desire of their heart,
which is peace with God, self, and others.



Two challenges

1. Know that AGAPE (love) is the core of **God's nature, Jesus' way, and our calling?**
2. Know the right expression of AGAPE for **our life, family, brethren, neighbors, and world?**

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1 Cor. 13:4-7

Love is

patient
kind
not jealous
does not brag
is not arrogant
not unbecoming
not self seeking
is not provoked
holds no grudges
does not rejoice
rejoices in the truth
bears all things
believes/hopes all things
endures all things

a response to

trials
insults
success of others
success of self
power & authority
freedom
competition
confrontation
injustice
failure of others
gossip & slander
losses
discouragement
delayed hopes

8. **Respond to GOD'S SPIRITUAL dog whistles.**

Look at life's circumstances as opportunities to respond with faith, hope, and love.

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Know yourself
- being honest with ourself
is the first step to peace.

*Bearing
God's image*

Accept ourself
- applying God's grace to
ourself by faith is step two.

*Secure
in Christ*

*Living
sacrifice*

Get over ourself
- a sign that we are healthy
and postured to serve.

*Making a
difference*

Give ourself
- walking in the way of the Cross
as a part of the "by faith" family

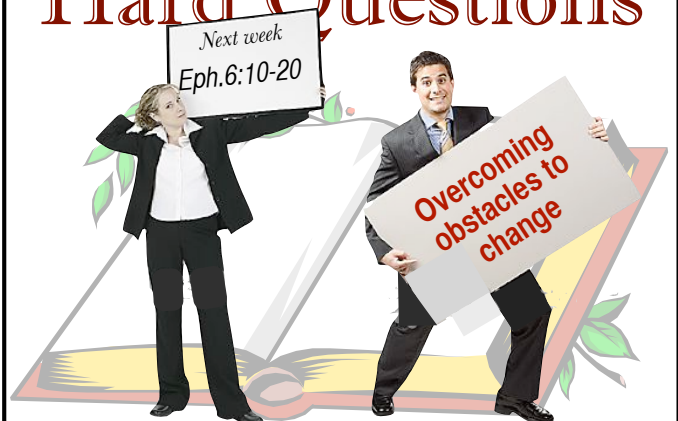
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Some of what I have learned in 70 years about life, change, and faith.

- The desire of my heart is: **serenity, security, significance.**
- Change does not take place without **insight & desire.**
- **MBTI** is a great window into the human soul.
- Pray for **insight, wisdom, & faith** more than discipline & circumstances.
- Define spiritual health in terms of how I **respond** to circumstances, both good and bad.
- See life's ups & downs as **opportunities** to develop and or demonstrate God's image.
- View love as a **self sacrificing commitment** to help others reach the deepest desires of God's heart.

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Hard Questions



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