



MIXTAPE

The Choice

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Week 4
4 of 4

October 28, 2018

Bottom Line: To get what you have never had in your marriage, you have to do what you have never done.

Icebreaker: If you were given the ability to project yourself into the past and change one event in history, to what time period would you go, what would you change, and why? Would you do it if you had to remain there? Or, what one thing would you be willing to lose two years of your life to change in our world today?

Key Verse: *If you are a follower of Christ Jesus . . . All that matters is your faith that makes you love others.*
Galatians 5:6 CEV

The Old Testament carries the original Ten Commandments Moses received from God at Mt. Sinai. They were the practical commands for how society was to be set up in a way that honored God and enabled living together with other people in community. The first few commandments are about our relationship with God, and the remainder are about our relationship with others. By the time of Jesus, the commandments and laws had been multiplied to over 600, nearly all of them fine-tuning the ways humans must treat each other.

Then came Jesus. He said that ALL the commands could be boiled down to this: Love God with your whole soul, mind, body, and strength, and then love your neighbor as yourself. His point was that His followers didn't need a checklist and fine print to establish policy for their lifestyles. They simply needed to have a vibrant faith relationship with Him that always led with the question, "What does love require of me in this situation?"

His disciples, His closest friends, were the recipients of that kind of love. They were witnesses to the way He loved even His detractors and attackers in that way. When He left them and returned to heaven, they taught everyone that this was the way true followers lived. Every New Testament author repeats it: Our faith is a **Relationship** with Jesus, not rules. That faith is the source of our love, the empowerment for our love, and the example for our love. We don't need rules and fine print to govern our relationships. We only need to live and love in the sacrificial, giving and serving way of Jesus. How would your marriage and life in your home change if all the expectations and demands were dropped, the rules made null and void, but the sacrificial love of Jesus was the only standard?

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

"Our relationship with God is not just vertical, it's also horizontal." What does that mean and how does it practically apply to your relationship?

"The way you treat people is how you show your respect for God." Agree or disagree? Are there any loopholes, if you agree? Why or why not?

"Giftedness or a skill is not necessarily a manifestation of spirituality or spiritual maturity. Love is always the bottom line." Can you share an example of how you have seen this to be true?

"The world doesn't need more knowledge, it needs more love." How do you believe this applies personally? Is there any application politically, publicly, or work-wise?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

"This kind of love is patient and allows for mistakes, because we all married a broken, imperfect person. And so did they." When we KNOW we need patience and forgiveness, why is it so hard to extend it?

"There are two major obstacles to extending this kind of love: **Our experiences** make it hard, because the people in our lives can really hurt us, and that influences us to respond in a wrong way. **Our issues** may give us triggers that set the other person up for failure. We need to pay attention to who we are in the relationship, not just what the other person is doing." How have you experienced this? What helps you conquer it?

Knowing who we are in Christ and loving God's way empowers us to be unoffendable (Ps. 119:165). Instead, we always protect, trust, hope, persevere. Discuss the practical implications of this stance.

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Attend Married Life Live.
- 2) Find time to discuss in your own home what it will look like to ask the question, "What does love require of me?" instead of "What's the rule?"

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: To get what you have never had in your marriage, you have to do what you have never done.

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| Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Why did you give yourself this rating? | | | | | | | | | | |
| What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person? | | | | | | | | | | |
| What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating? | | | | | | | | | | |
| At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week? | | | | | | | | | | |

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 13:3

Tuesday: Romans 12:21

Wednesday: 1 Peter 4:8

Thursday: John 15:13

Friday: Romans 12:9-10, 13, 15-16

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)