



MIXTAPE Danger Zone

#npmixtape

Week 1
1 of 4

October 7, 2018

Bottom Line: Expectations must be clarified and managed.

Icebreaker: Have everyone share “their song” or a favorite/funny love song. Try to get some laugh-worthy country song lyrics.

Key Verses: *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.*
Romans 13:8 NKJV

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34 NIV

Expectations are not sin, and they start in a place God created. We were all born with legitimate desires. We desire respect, admiration, companionship, acceptance, intimacy, sex, love, among others. Those are good things, applauded by God, and it is totally understandable to want them. But when desires cross the line and morph into something we expect instead of something we would like to have, it changes the whole tone and satisfaction level of the relationship. Chances are, your relationship with your electric company is not intimate and loving. They don’t send you “thank-you notes” for remitting your bill, and you don’t feel a warm rush of love when you get an unexpected letter from them. Why? You have a contractual relationship, and the only time you contact each other is when one of you have not lived up to the terms of the contract, or if the terms are changing.

Unfortunately, after marriage, the covenant, too, often deteriorates into a demand and an expectation, more closely resembling a contract. There is little joy when desires are fulfilled, just a sense of, “Of course, you should do that.” The communication occurs when expectations are not fulfilled. Having unmet expectations is terminal for a relationship; so is demanding they be met. Expectations are deadly to intimacy, unconditional love, gratitude, and satisfaction. You can’t have self-focused expectations and unselfish giving/serving at the same time. My parents had an amazing marriage, and they claimed their secret was that every day they each had the solitary goal to out-serve the other. Dad said, “Mother and I both try to love each other in such a way every single day that when we go to bed, if either of us got shorted, I want it to be me. She wants it to be her.” That is how love fulfills the law. That is how marriage works. It’s a covenant between 3: the spouses and the Jesus who loves us first and best.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

“Most marriages start off as an ideal, then they become an ordeal, and then pretty soon you are looking for a new deal.” How have you experienced that? If you have been on that slide, what did you do to reverse it?

Dwight said he has three goals in this series: to comfort you if you are hurting, to convince you that it is possible to have a great marriage, and to challenge you to correct some of the things that are causing struggle in your closest relationship. Which would you honestly say best represents what you need right now?

“Unmet expectations are not just a marriage problem—it’s a life problem. No one is immune.” Discuss.

How would you define an expectation? How is it detrimental?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

“Our experiences shape us so much that most of us are trying to recreate something or avoid something.” What are some problems with that approach?

If we don’t let God help us, at some point we place all our hopes, dreams, and desires in a box, give them to someone, and say, “Make this come true.” Discuss.

“You will never be fulfilled just committing to the marriage. You have to be committed to the person.” What’s the difference?

“Love Jesus-style is a command, a choice, a conduct, a commitment.” What do these things mean, and where do you need to grow most?

“The higher your expectations, the lower your gratitude level.” Agree or disagree? Why?

NEXT STEPS

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

- 1) Make a commitment to express gratitude every single day to your spouse if married; to someone else who is close to you if you are not.
- 2) Whether you are married or single, what marriage do you know that seems to be thriving? How do they demonstrate Jesus' kind of love? Have a conversation with them and ask for their wisdom.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Expectations must be clarified and managed.

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: Ephesians 5:2

Tuesday: 1 John 4:11-12

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 14:1

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Friday: 1 Corinthians 13:11

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.)