

WCC Midweek Teaching

Relationships

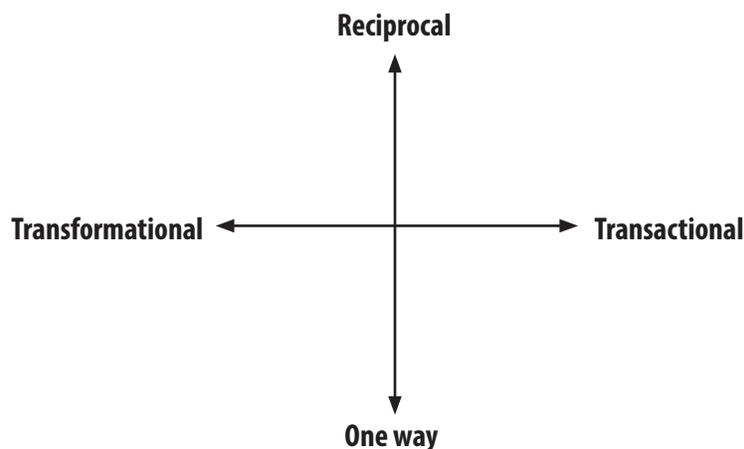
My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. – John 15:12

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. . . – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Personal Reflection

Before you begin any time of personal reflection, it's important to start with prayer. So, do that now. Ask God to help you push away distractions to see things clearly. Pray that He would give you wisdom and clarity as you look at your relationships. It's also a good idea to find a quiet place to focus. You should also grab something to write with and a journal or some paper.

Now, identify your relationships using the graph below to help you think through where each relationship falls. Feel free to draw your own version of this graph in your journal or on a larger piece of paper so you have plenty of room to include as many of your relationships as you'd like.



Once you've plotted your relationships, think through these *identify*, *diversify*, and *supply* questions:

What were you able to identify? Were you surprised by anything? Did you notice any trends?

How do you need to diversify your relationships? Based on what you were able to identify, how do you need to modify some of your friendships?

What can you do to supply? Basically, how can you be a better friend and try to love others better?

The key to being a better friend is love. Spend some time reading through 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a.

After you read it once, use the prompts below to guide you through a second reading and help you reflect on the truth in the verses:

Take a few minutes to write down all the characteristics of love mentioned in these verses.

Which of these characteristics of love are easiest for you? Why?

Which of these characteristics are hardest for you? Why?

Which of these characteristics do you need to grow in the most? Which do your friends need most from you?

What steps can you take to practice loving in these more challenging times?

Now close this time of personal reflection in prayer. Thank God for the opportunity to spend time with Him in quiet reflection. Ask Him to help you love others better. Ask Him to keep reminding you of the ways you can grow and try to be a better, more loving friend. Thank Him for the fact that you don't have to do this on your own – that it is God working in you that will cause you to grow in love.

Discussion Questions

After you've spent some time alone reflecting on your relationships, use these questions to talk with others about what you heard from the teaching and what you learned about yourself during your reflection time.

The three tools for relationships are; identify, diversify, and supply. Keep that in mind as you discuss these questions:

When you plotted your relationships, what were you able to identify? Were you surprised by anything? Did you notice any trends?

How do you need to diversify your relationships? Based on what you were able to identify, how do you need to modify some of your friendships?

What can you do to supply? Basically, how can you improve your relationships and try to love others better?

What else stuck out to you?

Spend some time together in prayer.

