

The Relationship Question

Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets - Part 6

October 13, 2024

Q#1 - The Integrity Question: Am I being honest with myself ... really?

Q#2 - The Legacy Question: What story do I want to tell?

Q#3 - The Conscience Question: Is there a tension that deserves my attention?

Q#4 - The Maturity Question: What is the wise thing for me to do?

“What’s in it for me?”

Jesus flips that script entirely.

*“³⁴I give you a new command: **Love one another. Just as I have loved you**, you are also to love one another. ³⁵**By this** everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35 (CSB)*

Q#5 - The Relationship Question: “What does love require of me?”

Jesus followers demonstrate their devotion to God by putting the person next to them in front of them.

*“¹If I speak human or angelic tongues **but do not have love**, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains **but do not have love**, I am nothing. ³And if I give away all my possessions, and if I give over my body in order to boast **but do not have love**, I gain nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (CSB)*

Anything is worth doing if it’s done with love, and nothing’s worth doing if it comes at love's cost.

“⁴Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, ⁵is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. ⁶Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (CSB)

If you want to know the extent of your love for God, look at how well you love people.

What does love require of me?

#1 - Patience

“Love is patient ... ” 1 Corinthians 13:4a (CSB)

- **Patience stretches love beyond convenience.**
- **Being patient with people is more bearable when we understand that everyone is a work in progress.**

#2 - Positivity

“... love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant ... ” 1 Corinthians 13:4b (CSB)

- **Build up, rather than tear down.**
- **Assume the best, rather than the worst.**
- **Draw people in, rather than push them away.**

#3 - Peace

“... is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs.”
1 Corinthians 13:5 (CSB)

- **Love works to protect the relationship.**
- **Can you lay down your need to be right to pursue peace?**

#4 - Principle

“Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth.” 1 Corinthians 13:6 (CSB)

- **If we really love people, we won't let them get it wrong for very long.**

#5 - Perseverance

“^aIt bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ^bLove never ends.”
1 Corinthians 13:7-8a (CSB)

- **Persevering love doesn't retreat—it leans in with grit, holds the line, and stands strong when the going gets tough.**

Jesus didn't love halfway. Jesus loved all the way to the cross.