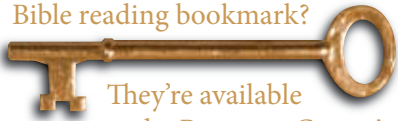


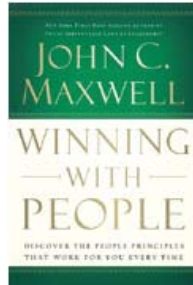
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The way people see others is a reflection of themselves. If I am a trusting person, I will see others as trustworthy. If I am a critical person, I will see others as critical. If I am a caring person, I will see others as compassionate. Your personality comes through when you talk about others and interact with them. Someone who doesn't know you would be able to tell a lot about who you are based on simple observation.

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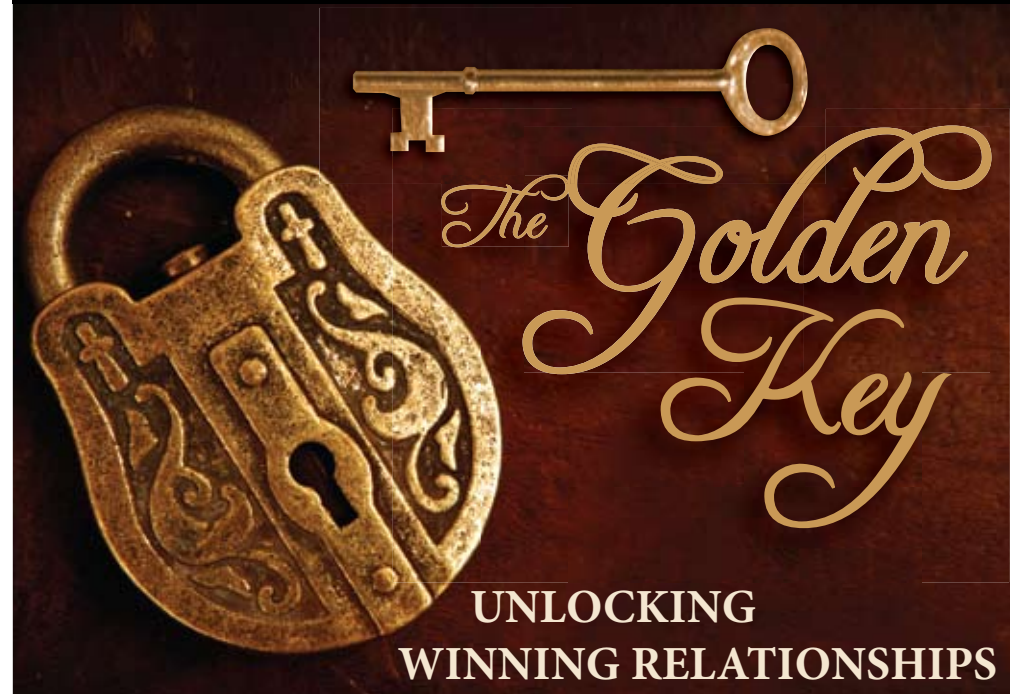


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Golden Key Discussion Questions

- 1) Have everyone get out their key chain. What keys do you have on it? What do you do to keep from losing your keys? Share your favorite key story about losing, locking or finding your keys? What key relationships would you like to have some new keys to?
- 2) Read through Luke 6:27-38 together. How do you want people to treat you? What do you want most from others? How do you receive that? Now think about real life situations like when you've made a big mistake or are fighting depression and ask "How would I want to be treated in that situation?"
- 3) What are you sowing into your relationships? Review both the *Lens Principle* and the *Mirror Principle*. Do you agree that who we are determines how we treat others? How do you treat yourself honestly? Do you love yourself? Do you believe God loves you unconditionally? Read I John 4:15-19 and then pray for one another's ability to treat others as you would want to be treated.

SERMON NOTES: WEEK ONE



Who You Are Determines How You See Others

(an excerpt from *Winning With People*, by John C. Maxwell)

A traveler nearing a great city asked an old man seated by the road, "What are the people like in this city?"

"What were they like where you came from?" the man asked.

"Horrible," the traveler reported. "Mean, untrustworthy, detestable in all respects."

"Ah," said the old man, "you will find them the same in the city ahead."

Scarcely had the first traveler gone on his way when another stopped to inquire about the city before him. Again the old man asked about the people in the place the traveler had just left.

"They were fine people: honest, industrious, and generous to a fault," declared the second traveler. "I was sorry to leave."

The old man responded, "That's exactly how you'll find the people here."

(continued on back...)

The Golden Key: Looking Inward September 13/14, 2008

Jesus Christ gives us the “Golden Key” for unlocking the winning relationships we all long for. He wants us to win even in difficult relationships.

Luke 6:27-38 - *But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you. If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return. Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate. “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.*

1. We can't control how people treat us but we can choose how we treat them. We increase our ability at winning, even in difficult relationships, when we treat others like we want to be treated rather than how they treat us.

The Golden Key:

Luke 6:31 - *Treat others the way you want them to treat you.
- Do to others as you would like them to do to you.*

2. Treating others the way you want to be treated can start a positive chain reaction in your relationships and can even reverse a “negative relationship.” The key is obeying Christ, not your feelings.

Love not hate
Bless not curse
Pray for not pray against
Give to not take from
Affirm not judge
Forgive not condemn

The Holy Spirit can give us the **power** to respond in this supernatural way and help create a positive chain reaction.
Galatians 5:22-23

3. We can use the Golden Key in all our relationships by “looking inward” and answering some key questions like:

*How do I want people to treat me?
What do I want most from other people?
How do I receive that best?*

4. We also use the Golden Key when we ask how we would want to be treated in real life situations and then treat people that way when they are going through them.

5. Using the Golden Key helps you take advantage of the law of sowing and reaping. As you continue to sow what you want in relationships you will eventually reap the kinds of relationships you long for. Luke 6:37-38

Two Silver Principles help us live this Golden Key!

1) The Lens Principle:

“Who we are determines how we view others!”

“As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.” Prov. 27:3 KJV

“Self image is our inner self –portrait. It's how we truly see ourselves, it's the mirror image of our soul or how we truly feel about ourselves.”-Josh McDowell

“Who you are determines the way you see everything!”

-John Maxwell

“No person can consistently behave in a way that is inconsistent with the way he perceives himself.”-Neil Anderson

2) The Mirror Principle:

“The First Person We Must Examine Is Ourselves”

How do I treat myself?

Do I love myself as God's beloved child, His masterpiece whom He is transforming daily into the likeness of Christ?

Do I focus on my shortcomings or the person I am becoming?

Do I like, respect and appreciate who I am?

The key to loving yourself so you can love others is receiving the love of God freely given in Christ!

1 John 4:15, 16, 19 - *All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. We love each other because he loved us first.*