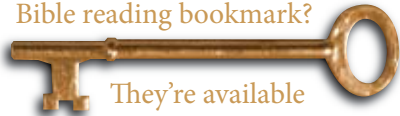


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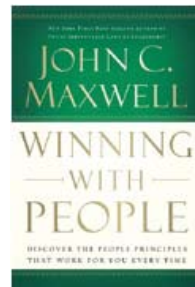
beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is, you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, you've managed to make it my fault."

How often have you found yourself in conflict with another person because you see things one way and he sees them another? Think about it. If you're married, don't you continually face potential conflict because of the way men and women naturally see things differently? If you have children, doesn't a lot of the friction occur because they don't see things the way you do? Even in a really positive working environment, people don't see everything eye to eye. (Just remember this: before you have an argument with your boss, take a good look at both sides-his side and the outside.) Seriously, though, I believe that if people made the effort to see things from others' points of view, 80 percent of our relational conflict would disappear.

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Golden Key Discussion Questions

- 1) Can you think of a time someone loved you by giving you what you needed instead of what you deserved? Read together how Jesus did that the night He was arrested in Luke 22:47-53. Isn't His response amazing? Now read Luke 6:27-28. How does this apply to your life?
- 2) Are you an empathetic person? Do you practice the Exchange Principle like Jesus did in Matthew 9:35-36? "Instead of putting others in their place, we must put ourselves in their place." Are you good at seeing things from others perspectives or do you need to work on that?
- 3) The Learning Principle says, "Each person we meet has the potential to teach us something." What did you learn from listening to Dr. Awad? Didn't his sharing give new light on the people and problems in the Middle East? How could we support Christians there in their struggles?

SERMON NOTES: WEEK FOUR



When We Fail to See Things from the Perspective of Others, We Fail in Our Relationships

(an excerpt from *Winning with People*, by John C. Maxwell - *The Exchange Principle*)

Much of the conflict we experience in relationships comes from our failure to see things from the other person's perspective, as the following joke illustrates. A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am." The woman below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 to 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be an engineer," said the balloonist. "I am," replied the woman. "How did you know?" "Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is, I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip."

The woman below responded, "You must be in management." "I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?" "Well," said the woman, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people

(continued on back...)

