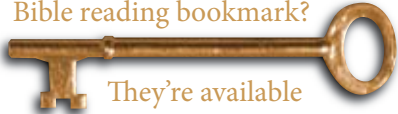


Trust Begins with Yourself

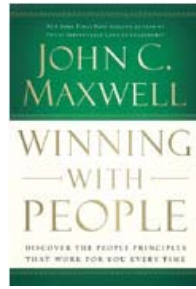
Shakespeare wrote, “This above all: To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.” If you are not honest with yourself, you will not be capable of honesty with others. Self-deception is the enemy of relationships. It also undermines personal growth. If a person does not admit his shortcomings, he cannot improve them.

It all goes back to the Mirror Principle. The first person we must examine is ourselves. Take a good look at yourself. Are you honest with yourself about how you live your life? Is your character solid? Does your *yes* mean *yes* and your *no* mean *no*? Do you follow through with your commitments? Don't ask others to put their confidence in you if you believe you may betray it. Work on your character first, then your relationships.

Did you get your
Bible reading bookmark?



They're available
at the Resource Center!

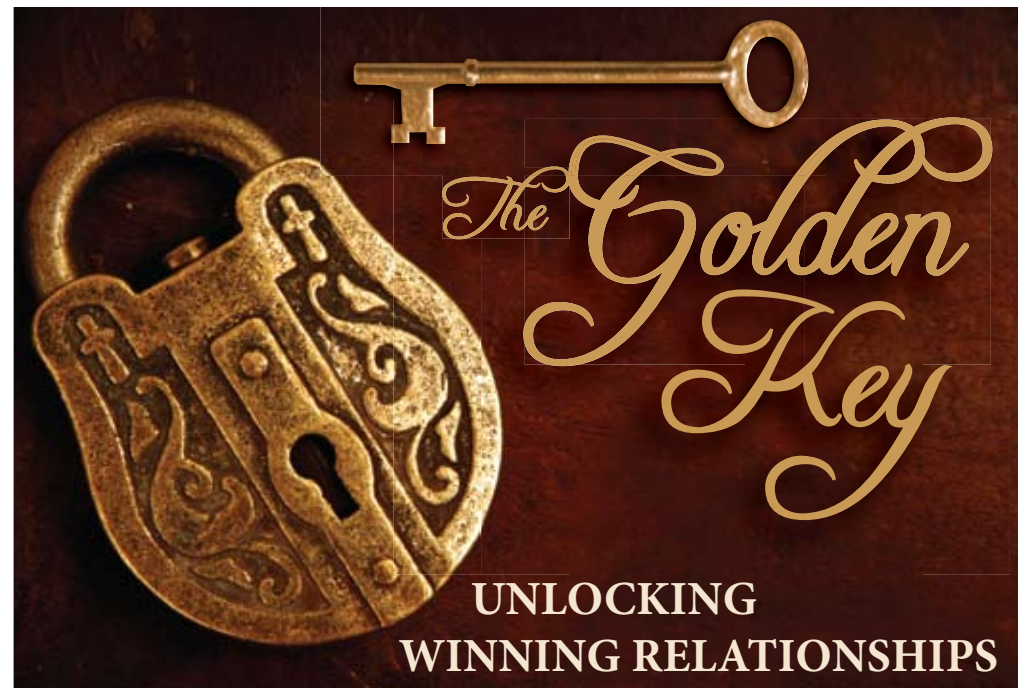


Want to read more?

Join a Golden Key
Small Group!
Sign up in the
Commons or call
Jolynn, 318-9446 ext.
116. Books available
for just \$10!

Golden Key Discussion Questions

- 1) Have you ever gone through a major storm and wondered if your house would be damaged or destroyed? Did you have to take any emergency measures to protect it? Have you gone through storms in your relationships? What kind? How well did they stand up to the storm? What insights can you gain from Jesus' parable in Luke 6:46-49 about building enduring, storm proof relationships?
- 2) Do you see God as completely trustworthy? Why or why not? Can you share a time you experienced His faithfulness or reliability? Have you ever felt that God has let you down? What happened? Is it hard for you to trust God now? What would restore your confidence in His trustworthiness?
- 3) Do you trust people easily or is that a struggle for you? Share a time people really came through for you when you were in a storm. Has anyone ever betrayed your trust? Do you agree that relationships are like bank accounts in which we make deposits through being reliable? How could we make more deposits into our key relationships?



Trust Works Like a Bank Account

Mike Abrashoff, author of *It's Your Ship*, states, “Trust is like a bank account - you have got to keep making deposits if you want it to grow. On occasion, things will go wrong, and you will have to make a withdrawal. Meanwhile, it is sitting in the bank earning interest.”

Mike learned that from his years as a naval officer. I learned the same thing as a pastor. For years at leadership conferences, I taught the idea of having “change” in your pocket relationally. When you first begin a relationship with someone, you start fresh with that person. If the person is trusting and generous, you may begin with a little bit of change. If he is suspicious or hurting, you probably begin with none. Each time you do something to build trust, you put relational change in your pocket. Each time you do something negative, you spend some of that change. Do enough negative things - due to lack of character or competence - and you're bankrupt. And that spells the end of that relationship.

This dynamic works in every area of your life. If you spend all of your change with your colleagues at work, they no longer willingly work with you. If you spend all your change with your boss, you end up looking for another job. If you spend all your change with your friends, you spend a lot of time alone. If you spend all your change with your spouse, you end up in divorce court.

(continued on back...)

The Golden Key: Looking Below and Beyond
October 11/12, 2008

Life is full of storms! Only well built homes can endure the real storms of life. What's true of houses is also true of relationships. They must be well built on a strong foundation to endure the real storms of life. *Luke 6:46-49*

1. Storms are inescapable in life and must be prepared for.

2. Strong foundations and quality construction are essential if you want your house to last. What you build below determines how well your house stands above.

3. Doing what Christ tells us to do in our relationships is how we build a strong, storm proof foundation for them. We build to last by obeying His Word daily.

John 13:34 - So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

John 15:12 - This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

Ephesians 5:25, 33 Ephesians 6:1-9

4. We will only do what Jesus tells us to do in our relationships if we really believe He and His Word are true and trustworthy.

Psalms 146:6 - He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever. Hebrews 10:23

The Golden Key is The Bedrock Principle: Trust is the Foundation of Any Relationship.

5. Trust is the foundation of my relationship with Christ.

I put my trust in Him because He is who he says He is and He does what He promises to do. The more I trust Him and obey Him the more trustworthy I find Him to be. I know that whatever storm comes I can endure it because He is full of integrity and will do all He promised to me.

Psalms 18:30 - God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

Psalms 33:4 - For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does.

Psalms 100:5 - For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

6. His relationship with me is the model for my relationships with others. I build a foundation of trust by living with integrity in my relationships. I do what I say I will do. I am faithful to my promises and commitments. I live the values I say I believe in. I act in agreement with God's Word even when it is hard to do and I don't feel like it. People know they can count on me and know that even if I mess up I will own my mistake and seek to change.

Proverbs 28:20 - A faithful man will abound with blessings,

Proverbs 5:21 - For the Lord sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes.

Proverbs 20:6 - Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable?

"Under promise - Over deliver"

"Trust is the result of a risk successfully survived. When others trust us, they truly take a risk. But with each successive time people put their trust in us and we don't let them down, we reduce the risk and build the relationship." - Gibb

7. Trust is like a bank account! You make deposits by being reliable and doing what's best for others consistently. With every deposit comes increasing "trust interest" which you can build "relational wealth" from. Making regular deposits keeps a positive balance in your relational account when withdrawals happen—and they will happen. When withdrawals exceed deposits your relational account is bankrupt and your relationship can end.

Looking Below and Beyond:

1) Am I a trustworthy person? Do I need to work with Christ on being like Him in this area of my life? **2 Corinthians 3:18**

2) Do I consistently obey His Word in my key relationships and thus build a strong, storm proof foundation in them. **James 1:22-25**

3) Am I making daily deposits in my relationships so I have a positive balance when withdrawals happen?

Wise relationship builders look below and beyond and do today what will secure the kind of relationships they want to live in tomorrow.

Luke 6:48