Discussion Questions from Weekly Message

Feel free to customize this to use in your small group, family or for you personally

From Message on: 11/15/20

Optional Opener Question

Ever enter a spelling bee? Or run for a school office? Join a sport team? How was the experience and how did it turn out? Do you love competition or run from it?

Introductory Thought

Our new series is loosely based on Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, subtitled "Powerful lessons in Personal Change." In order to change the situations around us, first we need to change ourselves. To do that, BE PROACTIVE, BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND and thirdly, FIRST THINGS FIRST. Build TRUST in relationships. Now, begin to think Win-Win, which is working toward a reality, a decision, an agreement that is a win for both sides.

Discussion Question

- Take 2 minutes to Review: Finish this sentence: "BE PROACTIVE in relationships means …." Now do the same for each of the other four points. Of all the things you've covered or learned or thought about in the past four sermons, is there something that you recall clearly?
- Taking the definition of Win/Win above, why do you think it begins with the word THINK? What needs to happen in my mind before I can begin with action? Which is harder, thinking or doing? Does the mental spin I put on the scene affect my attitude and how could I **redefine the goal**?
- Do you think everybody has a default reaction when they enter into arguments or discussions or conflict? Where does that default position come from? Learned behavior or a reflection of an internal priority?
- Match these 5 choices up with the definition that most fits:
    - Win/Lose — It is not giving in, or winning at any cost, it is the better way
    - Lose/Win — I don't care about the effect on you, as long as I get what I want.
    - Lose/Lose — I clearly get what I want, you clearly don't.
    - Win/Win — Neither of us gets what we really want
    - Win = I don't care about you — I clearly did not get what I wanted and you clearly got what you wanted.
- In the above five scenarios, what part does Pride play? How about Stubbornness? Why do you think we feel such a need to Win? What might the cost be of winning at any price? In what ways might Romans 12:3 be good advice and diffuse many arguments?
- Brent said, "Most of the issues we are seeing today come from a lack of balance between courage and consideration." What do you think he meant by that? How does Eph 4:15 add to the discussion? Add James 1:19 to the mix. What part could listening play in achieving the Win/Win? Finish this sentence: "As I grow more mature in spiritual things, I ……" Matt 6:33
- Is Win/Win the same thing as compromise? Agree, disagree, or somewhere in between?
- Review John 8:1-11, the story of the woman caught in adultery and presented by the Pharisees to Jesus, for the purpose of using her to trap Him. Everybody came with different expectations: what were they? How does the scene end? Brent said that everyone won something; how so?
- What do you think Brent meant by "Abundance Mentality?" How does my faith & confidence in the provisions of a loving Heavenly Father change my attitudes in conflict?
- After thinking and talking about winning, finish this sentence: "**To be a highly effective person, I should…."**

Practical Application & Next Steps

- Have courage to examine yourself: do you need to win at any cost? Or, conversely, do you see yourself as the victim, always on the losing end? Neither are healthy – now what will you do with the insight? Matt 6:33
- Is Romans 12:18 the story of your life? If not, is the problem in your thinking or in your acting? Ask a trusted friend to help you reboot your default reactions.
- Have you thought of God's call to change as an investment by Him into a version of a better you? He wants to give you the abundant life, shedding those mental habits that would weigh you down. Say yes and give thanks.