

Introduction: "Chronic-relatatitis"

Definition:

People in your relational network who act or treat you in a way that either causes inward concern or outward conflict.

Principle #8: The only person I can change is me

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

The relational application:

Give away what you most want to receive in a relationship.

Jesus' relational model

²⁷ "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. ³¹ Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.

Luke 6:27-31 (NASB)

Summary: Give the very _____ of what the person deserves.

³² If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:32-36 (NASB)

Summary: _____ your enemies.

³⁹ And He also spoke a parable to them: "A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴² Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

Luke 6:39-42 (NASB)

Summary: Deal with your own stuff _____.

⁴³ For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. ⁴⁴ For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. ⁴⁵ The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

Luke 6:43-45 (NASB)

Summary: My _____ will reveal my _____.

Practice:

Ask God what He wants to change in _____ rather than focusing on what needs to change in the other person. Then go to work on it, by His _____.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is “chronic-relatatitis”? Who in your relational network would you say you are experiencing “chronic-relatatitis” with?
2. How do you think they would react or respond if you give them the opposite of what they deserve?
3. If your speech reveals what is in your heart, what does your speech reveal about you?
4. In Luke 6:42 Jesus mentions, “first take the log out of your own eye.” Are there any areas in your life that you need to deal with right now? What steps will you take to make these changes?