

Warning

The Danger Of Counseling In Expectations

Expectation vs. Gospel Vision

Expectation: A belief that someone will or should achieve something. A belief about, or mental picture, of the future.

A strong belief that something will happen or be the case in the future.

Expectation

A behavior of spiritual maturity that you desire someone to perform for your benefit

Result: UNREST within you because you are depending on yourself to produce this behavior within the other person

Gospel Vision

A place of spiritual maturity that you desire a person to be at for their benefit

Result: REST within you because you are partnering with and depending on God to work within the other person

Expectation vs. Gospel Vision

“Our expectations are not always correct because of flaws in our logic and the bias of hope and desire. Sometimes, we “get our hopes up” based on a false premise or a misreading of the evidence. Often, we form expectations automatically, without conscious effort. When expectations are not met, pain ensues, and we often place blame on something or someone who did not live up to our expectations—even if our expectations were unreasonable.”

How do we know the difference between Gospel Vision and Expectation?

Why are we expectational?

Gen 1-3: God's original design for man was corrupted by sin

Jeremiah 17:9) *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*

1 Corinthians: A picture of how a Church can operate when not abiding in God's Love and having close Fellowship

Why are we expectational?

Romans 7:21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. ²² For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, ²³ but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

Why are we expectational?

John 15:5 *“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me—and I in him—bears much fruit, because apart from me you can accomplish nothing*

Nothing in context referring to bearing spiritual fruit.
Spiritual fruit really meaning Agape Love

How To Identify Whether We Are Expectational

1. What was your childhood and early life experience in this area?
2. RELATIONAL HISTORY and FLESH MUSCLE MEMORY will help you see tendencies of expectational relating.
3. What has been your life-long understanding of God's nature?

How To Identify Whether We Are Expectational

Consider YOUR vision and goals in the relationship. Are they consistent with God's goal and vision of walking closely with HIM?

Jesus showed that he is more concerned with giving him our whole heart and our dependence on Him and His Word.

Are we most concerned with that?

How To Identify Whether We Are Expectational

Gossip: Talking about someone behind their back that creates a negative image of the one being talked about.

Proverbs 16:28 *A perverse person spreads dissension, and a gossip separates the closest friends.*

James 3:1-10) The tongue can be an uncontrolled fire that destroys.

Eph. 4:29) We are to build each other up with our words.

How To Identify Whether We Are Expectational

Did Jesus have expectations on others?

Mark 1:17 *Follow Me and I'll make you fishers of Men*

John 6:28-29, BELIEVE

Luke 14:25-27, The cost of Discipleship, what it takes to follow Him

What did Jesus teach and model regarding expectations in relationship?
Prayer and dependence on the Father

How To Identify Whether We Are Expectational

Ask God to show you what your heart is while counseling/disciplining others. Think about what your actual goal and vision is and has been.

Keep this sharp in your mind: Our goal isn't to fix their problems, it's to help them relate to and depend on God for life.

As we're relating to God, we need to be asking him to give us his vision for people. The Spirit will work as we're walking faithfully with Him.

How To Discern

What are your thoughts about that person(s)?

What are your feeling towards that person(s)?

What are you saying to or about that person(s)?

How are you viewing God in light of that person(s) or relationship?

Break

Come Back At 11:00

Discussion Question: How could viewing God as an expectational Father affect the way we relate to others?

"If we don't lead others in love, we open the door to be used of Satan and accomplish the opposite of what we hoped for."