



MAIN POINT

True love is more than the romantic idea of falling in love. That may be how relationships begin, but it won't sustain them over the long haul of years. 1 Corinthians 13 gives insight into the true meaning of love. In a relationship, if one person is "winning" and the other person is "losing" then the relationship is losing. So how do you win at love? First, love does not demand its own way (like a two-year-old). Every time I get my way at the expense of somebody else, I erode the bond of that relationship just a little bit more. Next, don't overreact in anger. We are told not to sin in our anger. That doesn't mean we never feel angry. It means that we handle that anger appropriately. We must operate with self-control and we must not hold on to our anger. Winning at love means that we don't keep score. People on the same team aren't competing against one another, they are working with each other. Forgiveness plays a key role in not keeping score. Forgiving others does not mean we forget or excuse what they have done. We forgive others because we've been forgiven and forgiveness benefits us. Conflict will happen in relationships but it shouldn't be combat. How do we rebuild trust? Acknowledge our imperfections, abandon our right to get even and apply God's grace to our future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [*Warm Up Question*] What is the best marriage advice you've ever heard or received?
2. Read Matthew 18:21-35. How is the first man treated by the king? How great was his debt? How does the first man treat his own servant? How great was his debt? What does this parable show us about forgiveness?
3. How do people "keep score" in a relationship? Why is this harmful?
4. What does it look like to have the emotion of anger yet not sin? How do you give anger an expiration date? Why is that important?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How can/have you been demanding your own way in your key relationships recently?
2. How have you restored trust in a relationship? What did you do that was helpful? Not helpful?
3. Who is Jesus asking you to "win at love" with this week? What tangible steps are you going to take to do so?