

**Let The Games Begin  
The Mind Game  
Discover Church  
Mark Phillips  
June 4, 2023**

- Games are played with an **opponent**
- Relationships are played with a **partner**

Mind Game = Strategy you **deploy** to **influence** someone else that is **psychological** in nature.

Sender – Communication – Receiver

Invited my mom...

Golf this Saturday – sounds fun

Golf this Saturday - whatever

Fill up the car

*The interpretation we choose of the behavior we perceive will determine the distance we have between us.*

- Negative Interpretation – **widens** the gap
- Positive Interpretation – **closes** the gap

*“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

*“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant<sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;<sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.<sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.<sup>8</sup> Love never ends.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

### **The Antidote to the Mind Game**

- Love **believes** all things
- Love **endures** all things
- Love **hopes** all things
- Love **bears** all things

Question: Are you going to cut the grass today?

### **How to Overcome the Mind Game**

1. **Admit** interpretation often lacks **information**

*“Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” 1 Corinthians 13:12*

2. **Choose** to believe the best
3. Be **thankful** to God for your **relationships**

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16*

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Mind Game = Strategy you \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ someone else that is \_\_\_\_\_ in nature.

- Negative Interpretation – \_\_\_\_\_ the gap
- Positive Interpretation – \_\_\_\_\_ the gap

***The Antidote to the Mind Game***

- Love \_\_\_\_\_ all things

***How to Overcome the Mind Game***

1. \_\_\_\_\_ interpretation often lacks \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to believe the best
3. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to God for your \_\_\_\_\_

*Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; John 3:16*