

NOTES and EXTRAS: Clarify Expectations
July 14, 2024. Compelled Church, Nate Elarton

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.” (1 John 4:7–12, NASB95)

Clarify Expectations

The Purpose: To recognize whether certain expectations are valid or not, and to clarify our expectations with others.

When expectations are not talked about or agreed upon, this is the recipe for discouragement, disaster, and assumptions of motives in a relationship.

This is a direct teaching of the ninth commandment:

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:16, NASB95)

When we Clarify expectations, and don’t try to read people's minds:

1. We eliminate misunderstandings and unnecessary conflict.
2. We avoid telling ourselves a story in our mind about someone else.
3. We can know that people are both on the same page. We preserve unity.
4. We are able to love well. We will respond, react, say something mean, or just let anger, or hurt simmer and we bury our feelings alive. Feelings that are not even true many times.

What Expectations have you put on others and they have not met them, but you never spoke them and never agreed to them?

What feelings have you had because of this? _____

The Problem with Many of Our Expectations

- 1. Unconscious:** We have expectations of others that they don’t even know we have. We often don’t know we have the expectation until we are disappointed.
- 2. Unrealistic:** We have expectations that are not reasonable.
- 3. Unspoken:** We are conscious of them, and they may be realistic, but they are not spoken.
- 4. Un-agreed Upon:** We have expectations of others that they did not agree to, or others have expectations of us that we did not agree to?

What Expectation do you have right now with someone you need to speak to them about?

So what is a valid expectation?

1. Conscious: I am aware of my expectations.
2. Realistic: The expectation is reasonable. The person has shown they have the capacity and willingness to do it as they can and/or have done it in the past.
3. Spoken: I have spoken and expressed my expectations clearly.
4. Agreed Upon: The other person has heard my expectation and has agreed to it by saying “yes”.

What disappointments are you holding in your heart because someone did not meet your expectations? What judgment have you cast upon someone when an expectation was not meant that was never spoken or agreed upon?

Is there anything in your thoughts about God that disappoints you, as you had an expectation you feel he did not fulfill?

What have you expected God to do for you or others that He never agreed to, and you are disappointed in Him and are distanced?

Key Principle: Expectations are only valid when they have been spoken and mutually agreed upon.

“Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:5–9, NASB95)

Who do you need to ask about an expectation and what is it?

How will this help you “love” and honor that person?