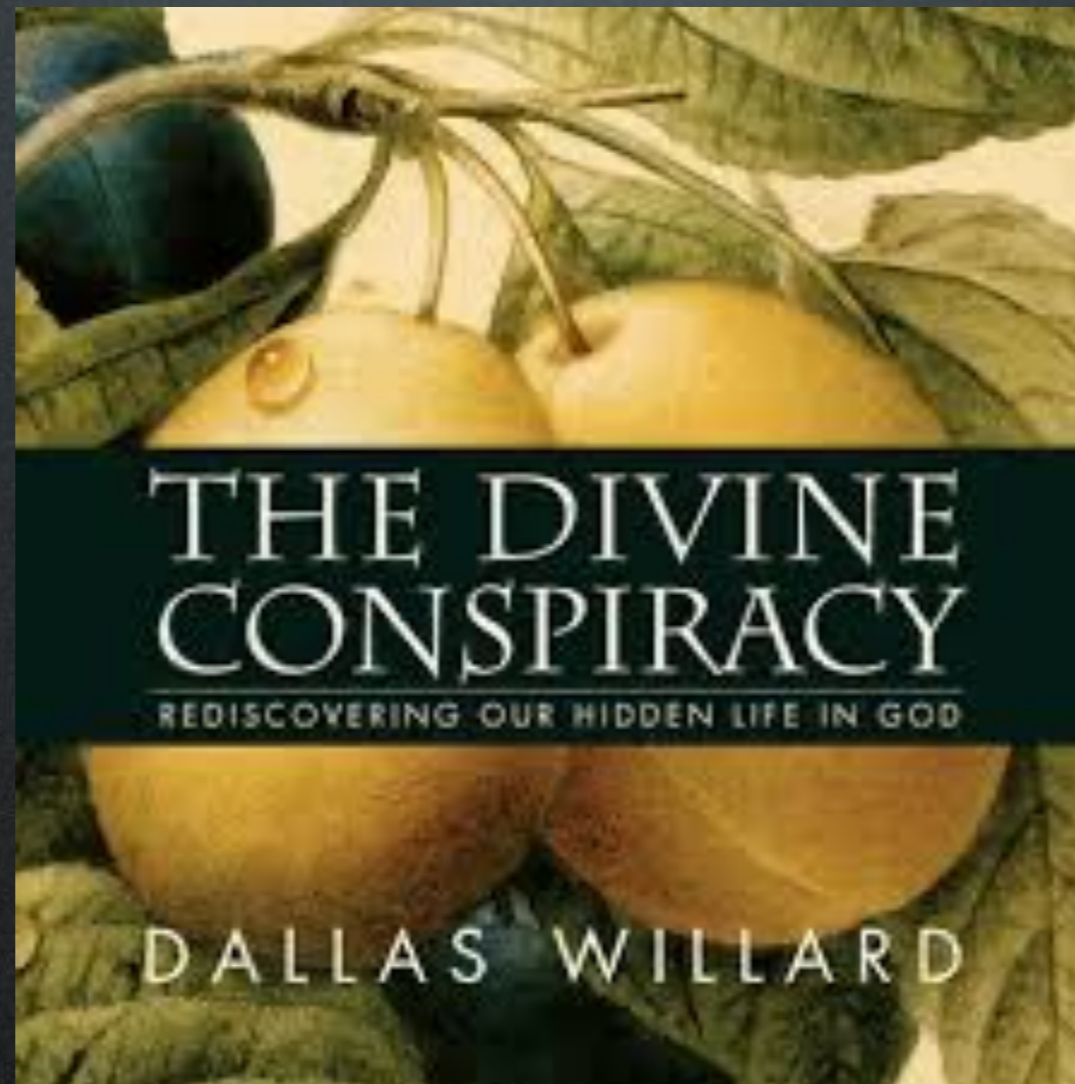


THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Chapter 7 - “The Community of Prayerful Love”

*Session 20 - “When Good Things Become Deadly
& The Request as the Heart of Community”*





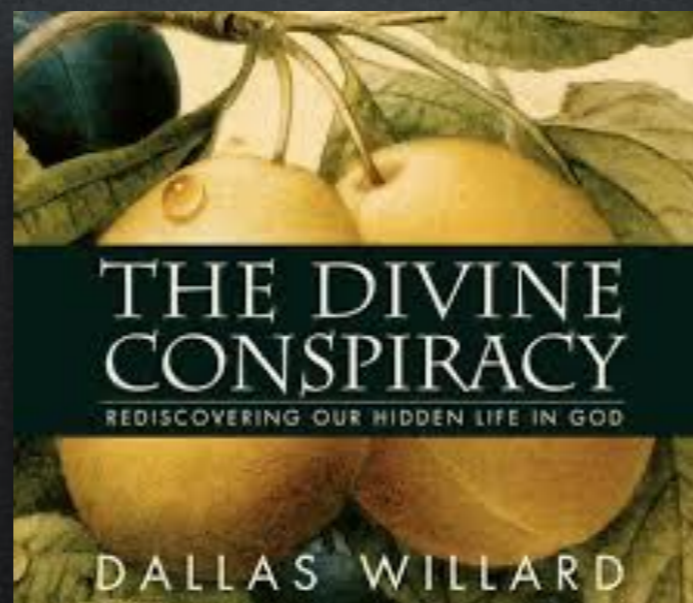
Session 19 Review

When we enter the life of friendship with the Jesus who is now at work in our universe, we stand in a new reality where condemnation is simply irrelevant.

In the context of the eternal love of Christ (Romans 8), it seems only intelligent just to have done with the whole condemning game.

(227)

"Copping an Agape Attitude"





Learning and living the wisdom of Jesus found in these 12 pages may well transform you as a spouse, parent, manager, friend, and “advisor” to live the Golden Rule.



“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.”

Matthew 7:6



Session 20 - “When Good Things Become Deadly”

“Of Dogs & Hogs”

Our practice of “**condemnation engineering**”...usually goes hand in hand with another device mistakenly used to manage the lives of those we truly care about...the practice of pushing things of God upon them whether they want or are ready for them or not.

What we are actually doing with our proper condemnation and our wonderful solutions is taking others out of their own responsibility and out of God’s hands and trying to bring them under our control.



(230)

Session 20 - “When Good Things Become Deadly”

Our God has paid an awful price to arrange for human self-determination. It is the only way He can get the kind of personal beings He desires for His eternal purposes. (230)

Qualities to walk in the Kingdom with others:

Serpent Shrewdness...Dove Innocence

Patience, confidence, hopefulness, truthfulness, and genuine respect for others freedom & individuality.

(231)



When Good Things Went Bad in Our Home

Webster Parental Peal-Pelting Techniques
from our Toolbox & Jewelry Box



7 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 7:7-12



Session 20 - “The Request as the Heart of Community”

The Art of A.S.K.ing by Jesus

Matthew 7:7-12

The most important element in transforming relationships: As long as I’m condemning my friends or relatives, or pushing my “pearls” on them, I’m their problem.



But, once I back away, maintaining a sensitive and non-manipulative presence, I am no longer their problem. As I listen, they do not have to protect themselves from me and they begin to open up. I am no longer trying to drive them, genuine communication, real sharing of hearts, becomes an attractive possibility.

The Request as the Heart of Community

The healing dynamic of the request comes naturally into play. (231)

Asking is the great law of the spiritual world through which things are accomplished in cooperation with God and yet in harmony with the freedom and worth of every individual. (232)



“The latch of the heart is within.”

Dallas Willard
The Divine Conspiracy, p. 232



The Unity of Spiritual Orientation = Character

Forgiving is but one case of giving and one who does not forgive does not live in the spiritual atmosphere and reality of giving, where prayers are answered.

There are few one way streets in the Kingdom.



(233)

“The one who does not love does not know God,
who is love.” 1 John 4:8

“Father, forgive them because they know not
what they do.” Luke 23:34

The Art of A.S.K.ing by Jesus

A request by its very nature unites.

A demand immediately separates. (233)

Prayer is nothing but a proper way
for persons to interact. (234)

“We have to remind ourselves that Jesus does not teach by giving us an absolute universal formula that will always bring down the result. He teaches by contradicting the practice in the first verses of the chapter. Now He says stop trying to manipulate people and go directly to them and ask. You can stay with them. You can knock - do it in a way that they have to hear that you are there. You don't have to become a non-entity in their lives. You can be a real presence. That is the way human beings are built to work.”

Dallas, “The Divine Conspiracy” Lecture #12 @ 50:00



The Power of Asking

*You are up against a fundamental force
of the Universe.*

Quarreling Mediated through Jesus

Prayer - Asking God - is the basic answer to the urgent need we all feel to influence others for good.

Our confidence in God is the only thing that makes it possible to treat others as they should be treated.

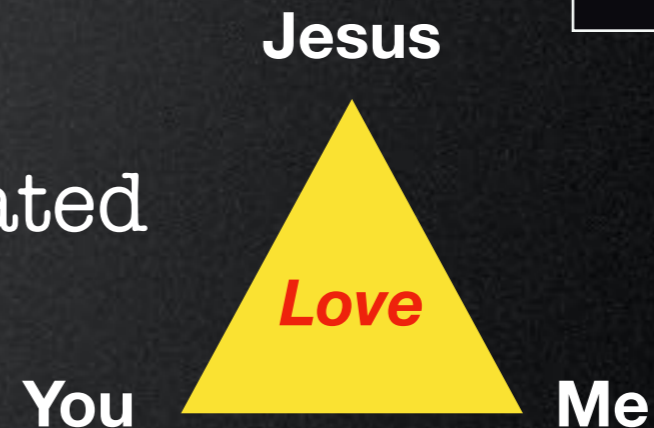
(235)

Receiving the good news of the Kingdom...obliterates scarcity and win-lose relationships. (235-236)

To understand Kingdom life together - totally revolutionizes how we deal with our families... with Christians...with citizens.



All relationships are mediated through Him. (236)



“This spiritual love will speak to Christ about a brother more than speak to a brother about Christ. The most direct way to others is always through prayer to Christ.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Laughter - good for our health...
a symbol of redemption.
God breaks through.

Psalm 126:1-2

(238)



*Laughter is a barometer of
the Kingdom presence in my life. (Webster)*

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

(Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen)



Q&A

Putting the Teaching into Practice

A Discipline of Triangle Prayer Communication (Webster)

The act of talking with Jesus simultaneously while listening or speaking to someone.

Principle of Asking
Practice of A.S.K.ing
Posture of AsKing

Meditation — Luke 18:1-8

In the next 10,000 minutes...

Q - Whose life am I trying to manage?

What blocks me from entrusting them to Jesus?

Q - How do I respond to the idea,

“Prayer is good communication between humans”?

Q- How habitually do I talk to Jesus while I’m talking with or speaking to someone?

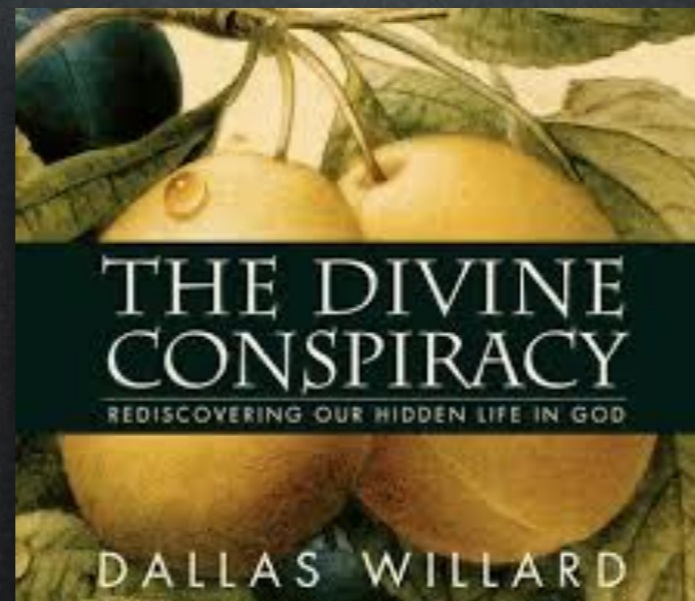
Q - With whom do I need to seek forgiveness and/or commit to offering non-condemning love through A.S.K. - “Asking, Seeking, Knocking” vs. B.O.P.- “Browbeating, Opinionating, Pushing”?



Session 20 Summary

Our confidence in God is the only thing that makes it possible to treat others as they should be treated.

(235)



80:00 + 10K



“The Divine Conspiracy Lectures”

Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube Channel

The Harvey Fellows 2004 Summer Institute

[12-part video series link](#)

Course Session 20 * Recommended Teachings

Matthew 7:6-12 [DC #12 41:00-57:30](#)

(119) pages of lecture notes in the Jesus College Library

<https://www.jesuscollege.com/dallaswillard-thedivineconspiracy>

* See the Course reading schedule for related teachings

Next Week — Session 21

Chapter 7 - “The Community of Prayerful Love”

“Prayer in the Cosmic Setting”

Hardback - pp. 239-253

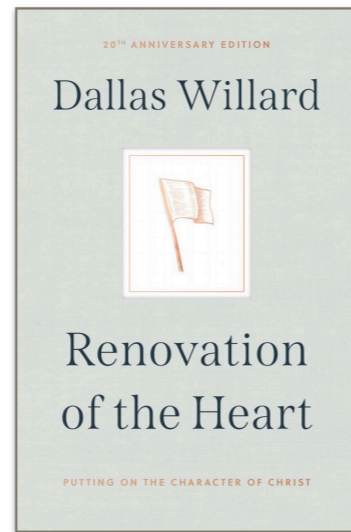
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May condemnation
engineering be retooled
with holy hilarity in
your next 10,000
minutes!

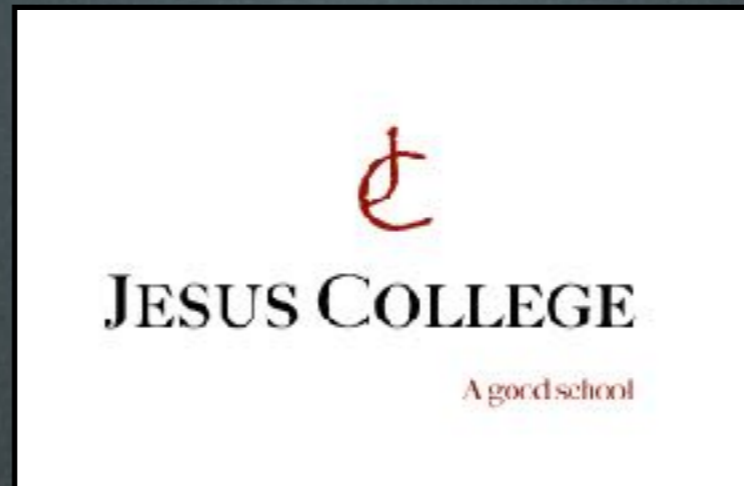
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