

# OUT OF CONTROL

## RELATIONSHIPS

September 20-21, 2014

- Open in prayer.
- Introduction
  - o From elementary school through college, we're taught how to be successful so that we can raise the bottom line at the place we work, live or serve. How often were we taught how to have healthy relationships?
  - o Even the American Dream at its core is anti-relationship. James Truslow Adams said the American Dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement.
- How do you have healthy relationships in a world that is out of control?
- Let God move you from co-dependency on people to dependence on Christ.
  - o A co-dependent person takes responsibility for the actions and emotions of others and often blames himself or herself for the inappropriate behavior of others. They obsessively worry about the feelings of others often to the point of becoming emotionally or physically sick. A co-dependent person avoids confrontation and conflict at all cost.
    - Have you ever experienced the above characteristics in a "co-dependent relationship"?
    - How does a co-dependent relationship disrupt your relationship with Christ?
    - What happens when you expect another person to do for you what only Jesus can do?
  - o Read Galatians 2:20
    - What does it mean when Paul said, "I've been crucified with Christ and Christ lives in me"?
    - How does living by faith in the Son of God move your thoughts from being co-dependent on others to realizing that Jesus is living in you?
    - What does Pastor Derwin mean when he says discipleship is about focusing on how much God loves you rather than just gathering more information from the Bible?
  - o Read Psalm 63:3-4
    - When His love is better than life. we stop becoming dependent on others to make us happy.
    - How does marinating on His love change the way we live?
  - o Regarding domestic abuse
    - Every nine seconds there is domestic violence, and a woman is abused. If you're experiencing physical abuse, either the abuser or you're being abused there is no judgment, condemnation, or shame...but there is help. If you need help in this area, please come to us and let us help you. There is a God who can heal and transform you!
- Let God move you from self-centeredness to others-centeredness.
  - o We live in a culture of transactional relationships...I'll be your friend if you can do something for me.
  - o Transformational relationships say, I'm going to honor and respect you because Jesus is transforming each of us on a daily basis.
  - o Self-centered relationships are parasitic. They see people as a means to an end.
    - Have you ever allowed transactional relationships guide how you live as a child, teen, young adult, or adult? How did it make you feel?
    - What does it mean to look at people the way Jesus does, as people who need to experience His unending love?
    - Where and how can you value people in your life who have nothing to give back to you?
  - o Read Matthew 20:25-28
    - Instead of using people, invest in them
    - Instead of devaluing people, value them.
    - Instead of taking from people, be a giver.
    - Share what that looks like in your life.

- Let God move you from being inauthentic to being authentic.
  - o Being authentic means we have the integrity to speak the truth in love.
  - o We need to share our thoughts and feelings in a non-defensive way.
  - o Read Proverbs 12:22
    - The devil is the father of lies...but Christ lives in us. Therefore we can risk having honest conversations.
    - How does speaking the truth in love (integrity) affect your relationships?
  - o Read Ephesians 4:23-25
    - The Holy Spirit renews our thoughts and minds and gives us a new nature.
    - How does this transform the way you communicate with your: Family? Classmates? Friends? Co-workers?
  
- Let God move you from unforgiveness to forgiveness.
  - o Living with unforgiveness is a cancer to our souls. But in Christ, we receive forgiveness.
  - o Forgiveness is the fuel that makes your hearts become engines of love.
  - o Unforgiveness will deteriorate and destroy relationships and cause you to sabotage relationships.
  - o Forgiveness means that the offending person no longer has power in your life.
  - o Read and discuss Ephesians 4:30-32
    - Is "tender-hearted" a word that people can use to describe you?
    - According to this passage, why should you forgive others?
  
- Soul-tattoo: Share what you have learned with someone this week.
  - o If you're in a TC Group, share this with someone outside your group.
  - o Share what you've learned with someone at school, in your family, at work, or in your neighborhood.

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## CALENDAR

Backpack Meals Food Collection  
Transform U: Finance Workshop  
BECAUSE Campaign

Pick up a list!  
September 23, 30  
[Because.TransformationChurch.tc](http://Because.TransformationChurch.tc)