

Patience, Celebration and Taking the High Road

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10X²

Text: Galatians 6:7-9

Those who are 10X with people understand that at the heart of it is one simple word **consideration**. Those who are 10X are considerate of other people. **Philippians 2:3** To be considerate is to be thoughtful, careful, helpful, kind, respectful and understanding of people their feelings, perspectives and needs.

Consideration does not imply **agreement**. It does mean that we listen to understand, speak to be understood and that we are tactful with our words, attitude and body language. Consideration is truly caring for people and knowing that it is important to speak the truth with **love**.

Ephesians 4:15

"Speaking the truth in love" means communicating honestly and respectfully, prioritizing the well-being and growth of others, rather than simply stating facts without consideration for their impact. It can be challenging to speak the truth in love, especially when dealing with difficult situations or people, but it is a crucial aspect of healthy relationships and spiritual growth.

~ The great philosopher, Mary Poppins – A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down.

Those who are 10X understand the spiritual principle of sowing and reaping and how that applies to relationships. **Proverbs 18:24, Matthew 5:7** Many people forget that what you put into a relationship is what you will **receive** from the relationship. Those who are 10X understand the power of **investment** and investing in people before they pour into you.

Remember, people without Jesus do not have the same resources that we do. Jesus already invested in us so that we have enough “seed” to sow into to others. The reason that the responsibility starts with us is that we are starting from a place of **abundance** while many people are starting from a place of need. **2 Corinthians 9:10**

- ❖ One of the ways that we consider other people is to be **patient** with them. People journey through life at different speeds. The key of good relationships is to travel **together**. Everyone has different energy levels, different abilities to think through and process things but each one is worth the wait. **Amos 3:3**

~ For the friendship of two the patience of one is necessary.

It is always easier to travel alone. It is much more rewarding to **share** the experiences. The longer you travel with someone the more you think alike and move at the same speed. It takes time to build quality relationships. That shared purpose and experience must be cultivated.

One or two people can gel together pretty quickly but the more people you add to the relationship the more patience is required. This is true in the family, the workplace and in a church. Too many people move through life in a hurry. One of the greatest hindrances to becoming 10X is impatience. **James 1:19**

- We must prioritize patience as a virtue worth developing. In the end you will find that patience with people is also beneficial to you. You get the chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it. We may not see the reward of patience right away but it will eventually bring life instead of a mess.
- To develop patience, we need to appreciate how others feel and think and care about that. Everyone thinks that their problems are the biggest, their jokes are the funniest, that their situation is different and that their faults should be overlooked. All of us want special consideration. Impatient people think everyone should be treated the same and they should: everyone should be treated as valuable, important and like they matter. Everyone deals with insecurity and doubt never leave them guessing about how you make them feel. Those who are 10X make people feel good about themselves.
- Realize that people have and create problems. People will bring you joy and difficulty. People are messy. Everyone has problems and blind spots. Those who are 10 X understand that people need and deserve grace. Try to give people the same grace you would like to receive for your shortcomings.
- Identify areas where people need to be patient with you. Those who are 10X know what their shortcomings are and how they affect people. All of us have idiosyncrasies that those closest to us have to put up with. Our shortcomings are areas of opportunity to improve or things that God made as part of our personality. Seeing this in ourselves helps us to see these things in others without being judgmental or condescending.
- Those who are 10X realize that all relationships require some give. No matter how good the relationship, we can't always have everything our way.
 - There will be give ups. There will be things that we would like to do but should not at this time. There are things we give up to spend time with and to invest in our marriage and children. The same is true at work.
 - There will be give ins. There are things that we don't want to do that we do for others. They get to have their choice or their preference over mine, not because we have been manipulated but because everyone should have a win. We may not like to exercise but we do because of the benefit it brings.
 - There will be give and take. There will be things we do for others at this time. Relationships are not always fair but they are reciprocal. They are not ever meant to be all give or all take. Each person must be giving and receiving. This is called serving one another.

The key idea behind this is voluntary flexibility.

- ❖ The true test of relationships is not only how loyal we are when friends fail, but how thrilled we are when they succeed.

~ Average people do not want others to go beyond average.

All of us need people who believe in us and cheer us on and motivate us to achieve all that we can.

The adage is true that misery loves company. You will have people who will commiserate with you when you fail or struggle but few who know how to celebrate with you when you are succeeding.

~ Oscar Wilde – Anybody can sympathize with the suffering of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathize with a friend's success.

The joy of accomplishment is diminished when no one celebrates with you. Never allow the lack of the enthusiasm of others to hinder your own and deflate you emotionally.

Many people identify with failure; few people identify with success. Those who are 10X are not afraid to share their mistakes, failures and hardships. Not to garner sympathy but so that others can use them as steppingstones of learning and encouragement. Everyone has failed, so this is a great way to connect.

~ John Maxwell – You can impress people with your success but you will influence them when you share your failures.

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Those who are 10X understand that the very same insecurity that prevents people from achieving in their lives are the very things that keep them from celebrating people when they achieve in life. Those things are usually insecurity, a scarcity mindset, fear and jealousy. These qualities cause people to have a difficult time getting beyond themselves.

James 3:16 (NKJV & AMP), James 4:1-3

How do we truly Celebrate others and avoid jealousy?

- Realize that life is not a competition. Godly people want to be like Jesus not better than someone else. Stop competing and start celebrating.
- Realize that life is not about comparison. Those who are 10X are not trying to be anyone else they are just being faithful to what God has called them to do. Our job is to be faithful. The results are up to God.
- Never throw shade on another person's joy. Refuse to be a wet blanket. Fan the flames with praise and encouragement. You will never increase your light by dimming someone else's.

- ❖ In relationships always choose to take the high road. Choose to treat others better than they treat you.

Taking the high road means never retaliating. It means never speaking to people the same way that they speak to you. Those who are 10X understand that the “high” road is the road less traveled and one that few are willing to take because it is a difficult road. The “High way” is the way that Jesus took. The narrow road is the way of Salvation and the way of those who are saved. **Matthew 7:13-14, Luke 6:27-32**

Those who take the high road understand that it’s not what happens to you but what happens in you that really matters. Those who are 10X realize that how we treat others is more important than how they treat us.

~ David Brinkley - Successful people are able to build with the bricks that others have thrown their way.

Those who take the high road are committed to stay on the high road. This is the road they are on and they are not taking shortcuts or detours. Almost anyone can be kind in the face of unkindness every once in a while. It is difficult to sustain a high road attitude all the time. The truth is the longer you take the high road the easier it is to stay on it.

All of us will be tempted to take the low way at some point. It appeals to our flesh. Those committed to the high road listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit. We all want our side of the story to be heard. We all want to say things that we want to say but should be left unsaid. All of us want to give people a piece of our mind. (The truth is very few of us can afford to give any of our brain power to others.) Anytime you give people a piece of your mind, you also give away your peace. Those who are 10X don’t give their peace to anyone.

Those who take the high road do not see themselves as victims. They choose to serve others. People who take the high road don’t do so because they don’t have options. They choose it. Remember the high road is uphill. Those who are 10X realize that no one travels it by accident or without effort.

Those who take the high road set a higher standard for themselves than they do for others. They care more than others think is wise, risk more than others think is safe, dream more than others think is practical, expect more than others think is possible and work more than others think is necessary. When you have done all that you know you can do and have given your all, those on the high road can let the criticism of those on the low road roll off of their back.