

Elevation of Desire (START AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE)

Punishment says, "Because you didn't, I will..." *punish you, myself, or others.*

"We are hurt and angry because people who say they love us seem insensitive to our needs. So we strike back in a variety of ways to punish them for their wrongs against us. We include everything from the silent treatment (a form of bloodless murder where I don't kill you but act as if you do not exist) to horrific acts of violence and abuse. I am angry because you have broken the laws of my kingdom. God's kingdom has been supplanted. I am no longer motivated by a love for God and people so that I use the things in my life to express that love. Instead, I love things, and use people—and even the Lord—to get them. My heart has been captured. I am in active service of the creation, and the result can only be chaos and conflict in my relationships."

Ask: In what ways have I been punishing myself/others?

Disappointment says, "You didn't" and when you didn't you failed, you did wrong, and therefore there should be a consequence. "There is a direct relationship between expectation and disappointment, and much of our disappointment in relationships is not because people have actually wronged us, but because they have failed to meet our expectations."

Ask: Where have I felt disappointed? How have I been expressing my disappointment?

Expectation says, "I will" and "You should" which is easily disappointed.

"If I am convinced I need something and you have said that you love me, it seems right to expect that you will help me get it. The dynamic of (improper) need-driven expectation is the source of untold conflict in relationship."

Ask: What have you been expecting of yourself, or others recently? What does this indicate about what matters most to you?

Need says, "I need" and therefore I expect you to fulfill.

"I now view the thing I want as essential to life. This is a devastating step in the eventual slavery of desire...To 'christen' desire as need is equivalent to viewing cake as I do respiration..."

Ask: What do you feel like you are being denied? And from who?

Demand says, "I must have..." This is where my innocent desire becomes a perceived need.

"Demand is the closing of my fists over a desire. . . . I am not longer comforted by God's desire for me; I am threaten by it, because God's will potentially standards in the way of my demand. . . . The morphing of my desire changes my relationship to others. Now I enter the room loaded with a silent demand: You must help me get what I want. . . ."

Ask: What have I found myself demanding to have? Or demanding not to lose?

CAUTION anything above this line could be evidence of a ruling idol of the heart!



Desire says "I want." "The objects of most of our desires are not evil. The problem is the way they tend to grow, and the control they come to exercise over our hearts. All human desire must be held in submission to a greater purpose, the desires of God for his kingdom."

Ask: What do I want most? What do I hope or wish for most?

START HERE – Read James 4:1-3