



## Growth Group Homework – April 30, 2017

### Learning to Love

It is a common practice to subtly manipulate people to get what we want, but one of the marks of an authentic Christian is learning how to love others. We are called to put off strategies that push people or trick people into doing what we want, and put on practices of love. This homework focuses on how to shift our pattern from manipulation to love in all types of relationships.

#### Warm-Up

1. Did you ever learn to play an instrument? How often did you practice, and can you still play it?
  
2. What is something in your life that has required practice?

#### Talk it Over

3. What part of the message stood out to you and why?
  
4. A common practice to get what we want is to manipulate. Colossians 3:7-9 describes two manipulative strategies. Imagine your boss gives you an assignment that causes you to work late several nights this week or one of your employees does something that causes you to work late. In this situation, what do you think the manipulation strategies would look like?

- Why do you think manipulation works so often?
  
- What is your manipulation strategy default? When and where does it seem to surface?

5. Read the following verses and record what they teach about love.

Matthew 7:12

Philippians 2:3-5

1 John 3:16-16

- Bevan explained that a natural approach is to use people and love things. After looking at these verses, what do you think the indicators would be if someone is loving people or using people?
6. Read Colossians 3:10-14. Why is it so hard to do what this passage says?

#### Take it Home

7. This week, what is one item from the manipulation practices you could “put off”? What is one loving practice you could “put on”?
  
8. Who is someone you can start practicing a “put on” action with?