

Open Up

*One of Six Decisions that will Change Your Life
May 30 & 31, 2009*

- 1. Be open with your _____.**
In order to experience real relationships, you need to drop some inhibitions and confidently _____ with others.

- 2. Be open with your _____.**
In order to end the masquerade that doesn't fool anyone anyhow, you need to stop _____ your _____.

- 3. Be open with your _____.**
In order to be an authentic friend, you need to candidly share with others what is _____ to you.

- 4. Be open with your _____.**
In order to follow the biblical pattern, you need to be generous not only with your _____ but with your _____.

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. Think of some things that must be opened in order to be fully appreciated. Are our hearts really like this as well?
2. How do you do connecting with others? Do you feel successful in relationships, or is emotional intimacy difficult for you?
3. What does our culture communicate about being an isolated individualist? What does the Bible say about the importance of connecting? What is the risk of "going it alone?"
4. How does the social facet of your life intersect with your spirituality?
5. These verses teach that all Christians are united together in the body of Christ (Rom. 12:4,5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14,27; Eph. 4:15,16). What else do these passages teach about opening up our lives and living in community?
6. Some people fear vulnerability so they feign self-sufficiency. They insulate themselves, put on a hard exterior and stay at a distance from others, never admitting needs or weaknesses. How could you help someone like this?
7. What hinders us from being more open about our faith? Are we ashamed? Do we feel inadequate, or are we just dispassionate? What can be done to ignite our enthusiasm?
8. In the biblical examples, talking about supernatural things seems to come naturally (John 1,4; Luke 5). What needs to happen in our hearts so that we feel comfortable simply inviting people to meet Jesus?
9. What jumped out at you from 2 Cor. 8?
10. Jesus talked quite a bit about handling our resources. Of his 38 parables, 16 have to do with money or possessions. There are over 2,000 references to money and money management in the Bible. Why? What does money represent?

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1. Be open with your feelings.

In order to experience real relationships, you need to drop some inhibitions and confidently share yourself with others.

2. Be open with your faults.

In order to end the masquerade that doesn't fool anyone anyhow, you need to stop denying your weaknesses.

3. Be open with your faith.

In order to be an authentic friend, you need to candidly share with others what is most important to you.

4. Be open with your finances.

In order to follow the biblical pattern, you need to be generous not only with your life but with your resources.