

“Asking the Wrong Questions”

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It's our _____ that set us up for trouble.

- God primarily wants me to be _____.
- When I'm _____ God should act.
- God should be at the center of my _____.

Genesis 13:10-13 (NIV)

¹⁰ Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹ So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: ¹² Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. ¹³ Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

Question #1: How close, is TOO close to sin?

1. Questions that focus on _____ of values are the wrong questions!

Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Question #2: What is the least I can do? (And be right)

Question #3: Why should I forgive an evil person?

2. Questions that marginalize _____ are the wrong questions!

Job 1:8-11 (NIV)

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." ⁹ "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹⁰ "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

Question #4: Why do bad (hard) things happen...to me?**Romans 8:5-7 (NIV)**

⁵ Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ⁷ the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Question #5: Why can't God give me more of what I want?

3. Questions that are all about _____ are the wrong questions!

BETTER (if perhaps more challenging) QUESTIONS:

1. How far away from sin can I get?
2. How much can I give, for the sake of God's kingdom?
3. How can I not forgive that evil person?
4. How can I repay God's unmerited favor?
5. How can I learn to want the right things?

Answers: presuppositions, happy, uncomfortable, plan, compromise, obedience, me (and mine)