

Week 8: This week's topic is the idol of self and in particular how we serve the idol of self in relationships. We serve the idol of self together and hurt each other in the process. The bulk of the message dealt with different types of relationships characterized as various kinds of "inner logic." I hope that these questions will lead the conversation toward enlightening people about what kind of "inner logic" they find themselves in and how they might avoid or overcome idolatry within it.

1. When you heard the descriptions of the various "inner logics" of relationships what did you think? Did one or more of them best describe you in any romantic relationships you might currently be in? How about your parents, did one of the four best describe them?
2. The "opposites attract" inner logic was described as the case when two people get close who are very different from each other. Often the differences cause sparks to ignite either passion or conflict. If this is your inner logic, how do you handle conflict? Do you believe your differences lead to passion?
3. Does anyone see the inner logic of opposites attract in their parenting? In these cases we can find ourselves in conflict with a child who has many similarities to our spouse. Is that true in your case? Do you see anything that you do in both relationships that contributes to the conflict? Is it something easy for you to change?
4. Does anyone see the inner logic of opposites attract in another relationship such as with a boss or coworker, a neighbor, friend, or sibling? If there is conflict in that relationship what can you do to use your differences to resolve the conflict?
5. The "team mates" inner logic was described as the case when two people get close who are very similar to each other. Often the similarities produce either sublimation of important things or the joy that comes from doing something wonderful together. If this is your inner logic, how do you handle conflict? Do you believe your similarities lead to joy?
6. Does anyone see the inner logic of team mates in their parenting? When parents are team mates they often cooperate extremely well. Is that true in your case? Sometimes, though, a child is born into the family and resists the "mold." If that is true in your case, can you offer advice for others on how to deal with it?
7. Does anyone see the inner logic of team mates in another relationship such as with a boss or coworker, a neighbor, friend, or sibling? Do you find in this relationship resistance on your part or on their part? How do you handle that?
8. The "pursued and pursuer" inner logic was described as the case when one person sees the other person as their object of desire and pursues them. The dynamic is complete when the other person pulls away. In the message Bob said that the strength of these relationships is fulfillment when the pursuer stops chasing and

- the pursued allows themselves to be caught. If this is your inner logic was there a particular moment or event that led you to realize this dynamic and turn it to your advantage?
9. Does anyone see the inner logic of pursued and pursuer in their parenting? In these cases we can find ourselves overly involved with a child who has many similarities to the person we are pursuing. One way to tell is the child often, especially after puberty, pulls away and resists parental involvement. (Obviously this can also result from just being a teenager.) Is that true in your case? Do you see anything that you do that contributes to the resistance? Is it something easy for you to change?
 10. Does anyone see the inner logic of pursued and pursuer in another relationship such as with a boss or coworker, a neighbor, friend, or sibling? Are you the pursued or the pursuer? Is there anything you can share to help others make the best of such a situation?
 11. The “unfinished business” inner logic was described as the case when we enter relationship with someone subconsciously trying to fix something in our family of origin. People often experience a sense of shame and pain when they realize this. After that, though, comes a feeling of understanding and liberation. We realize why we choose the person we did. If that relationship is over this can bring healing. If the relationship is still in tact in can bring illumination on how to improve it for the future. If this is your inner logic is either the situation for you, meaning you see it in a relationship that is over and you feel better understanding it or you are currently in such a relationship and better understand how to improve it?
 12. The unfinished business inner logic brings confidence when the people within it come to healing. Has this happened for anyone?
 13. Does anyone see the inner logic of unfinished business in their parenting? In these cases we can find ourselves in a nuclear family with many of the same characteristics as our family of origin including number of children, roles that the children play within the family, and so on. Is that true in your case? Do you find this discussion helpful for guiding you in your parenting?
 14. Does anyone see the inner logic of unfinished business in another relationship such as with a boss or coworker, a neighbor, friend, or sibling? If there is conflict in that relationship what can you do to use your differences to resolve the conflict?
 15. Bob said the solution to the idol of self is “self death” and he described the process as putting God on the throne of your life, letting God love you, and moving from that love toward the person you are in relationship with. Take a few minutes to pray for each other along those lines. Perhaps some people recognize

changes they could make in their relationships as a response to submitting to God? Maybe others recognize the wound they feel from past or current relationships and need God to touch them with his love? Pray for each other accordingly.