

# TWCC Teaching Series: "Expect More" (Growing Relationally, Gracefully)

## Subject: Avoiding the Pitfall of the Familiarity Zone

TWCC Teaching Handout – Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019



### The Three Zones of Life



- **JESUS FACED IT:** **Read Matthew 13:53 – 58** . Jesus our Lord even faced the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ caused by people who became \_\_\_\_\_ with Him. They didn't \_\_\_\_\_ Him as a qualified teacher of His time.
  - We see indicated of their lack of "respect" and "reception" of Jesus Christ the Lord by their first \_\_\_\_\_ "...Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?..." (Vs 54 NIV). They were commenting on His wisdom.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ Walk always breeds PEACE. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12 – 15; 1 Peter 3:8 – 12**. When there is **proper** and **principled** relating to those over us, around us and under our care there will be \_\_\_\_\_. Peace provides the atmosphere and environment for the \_\_\_\_\_ to flows. With no peace, there will be \_\_\_\_\_. Where there is BLOCKAGE, very little of the ANOINTING flows. Where little anointing flows, there are still yokes and bondages. Under these conditions, things just are not the best. If fact these are telling signs and symptoms of people slipping or sliding in the \_\_\_\_\_ Zone.
  - Some people act and live as the "EQUALIZERS" in their marriage, their family, on their job, or in their Church. What is an EQUALIZER? These are the people who \_\_\_\_\_ up and \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST leadership in order to \_\_\_\_\_ them. [**Defame** = to harm the reputation of by communicating false statements about; or slander or accuse falsely].
  - **THE SIN OF FAMILIARITY:** **Read Matthew 13:56**. It is a very deadly, subtle, \_\_\_\_\_! It is like a slow, aging death of a Marriage, a Family, a Job or Business or a Church.
- **THE THREE ZONES OF LIFE:** There are *Zones of Life* as illustrated at the top are: (1) The \_\_\_\_\_ Zone, which is where you always start, (2) The \_\_\_\_\_ Zone, where God expects you to live, and (3) The \_\_\_\_\_ Zone, where you begin to get into trouble, form bad attitudes, and become displeasing in the sight of the Father.
  - **THE SUSPICION ZONE:** is that area where you come in and begin to ask questions and accumulate information. It's that area where you begin to build a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - **THE CONFIDENCE ZONE:** Once we have the information, we should enter into the Confidence Zone. This is the Zone where God honors and blesses us. This is where the flourishing is because we are not "judgmental" or "critical". We're not suspicious. We're not irreverent, dishonoring or disrespectful, rather we're \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to walking in LOVE, HONOR and ESTEEM in the relationships God has ordained and authorized us to be in. We are **bold** and **confident** because of our relationship and trust in all that God has called us to do in the context of the relationship. (**Read Hebrews 10:32 – 39**). God expects us to walk in pure faith!

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■ **THE THREE ZONES OF LIFE:** The enemy will always tempt you and attempt to push us into the Zone we are to avoid.

■ **THE FAMILIARITY ZONE:** This is where we begin to take \_\_\_\_\_ and take for \_\_\_\_\_ the wonderful, beautiful blessing and gifts of God in our lives. We see different examples of this like: (1) Children begin to doubt and disrespect their parents in their teenage or young adult years. (2) In the marriage, husbands begin to become critical and condescending to their wives and vice versa (wives to husbands). (3) People who are employees begin to *complain, criticize* and *disrespect* their employer or their supervisors. (4) Congregants and saints of God begin to lose esteem and respect for their leaders and pastors after they've been in a particular Church for a while. (5) Born-again Believers, Christ-followers begin to treat God, His Word, and His house less respectfully than they should. In these relationship contexts you notice the big absence and omission of \_\_\_\_\_ and RESPECT given to them. There is a noticeable loss of *respect, regard* and *righteousness* in the relationship. *Loose lips, lies, lightness, looseness, laziness* and *loquacity* (gossip and grumbling) shows up a lot more in the relational interactions and hinders their GROWING IN \_\_\_\_\_ and staying in the PLACE OF \_\_\_\_\_ in the relationship.

■ Other examples of Familiarity Zone behaviors: (1) A New Car (2) A House / Apartment (3) Employment/Job/Business (4) Marriage (5) Some Biblical Examples: Aaron – too familiar; Miriam – too familiar; Gehazi – too familiar; Judas – too familiar; Ananias & Sapphira – too familiar

■ **RESISTING THE SIN OF FAMILIARITY AND STAYING OUT OF THE FAMILIARITY ZONE (3 STEPS):** **Read James 4:6 – 10 (1) BE \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE FAITH (2) DRAW \_\_\_\_\_ UNTO GOD (3) \_\_\_\_\_ YOURSELF. (Read 1 Peter 5:5 – 7)** We each are personally in charge of our own \_\_\_\_\_. We are not in charge of other people's \_\_\_\_\_. God resists, opposes, frustrates and defeats the \_\_\_\_\_. Also, the \_\_\_\_\_ of our cares [worries, fears, anxieties] is *PRIDE*; but the casting of our cares [worries, fears, anxieties] is *HUMILITY*! God can't take us HIGHER until we get LOWER!

■ It is hard to *serve, support, submit to, commit to* and *supply to* the people God puts in our life the way He wants us to if we are not \_\_\_\_\_ and we think more highly of ourselves than we should. You will stay constantly \_\_\_\_\_ and easily be \_\_\_\_\_ if you don't practice and develop in \_\_\_\_\_. You think of how valuable you are, and how you should be treated a lot better that you're being treated; I deserve it! **7 Things to Remember and Do:** **(1 Peter 5:5 – 9 (NIV):** 1<sup>st</sup>) Don't live or lead with a negative/bad *attitude* 2<sup>nd</sup>) Don't pursue money! *Getting* more doesn't make you more valuable, *giving* more makes you more valuable. 3<sup>rd</sup>) Continue to grow as a servant. Servants do not pursue *privileges* or *platforms*, they pursue *people*. **[NOTE:** (1) Learn to love your Pastors more than you love our platform (2) Love your Pastors more than you love your position]. 4<sup>th</sup>) Don't live down to what is *ACCEPTABLE* but live up to what is *BEST*. God has called us to live counter-culture of the world, not in line with the culture of the world. 5<sup>th</sup>) Get godly leaders around you who have lasted and keep company with wise, submitted and serving people. 6<sup>th</sup>) Remember who gives you a platform. Remember, you're not *servicing* or working *FOR* approval but *FROM* approval. 7<sup>th</sup>) When you get to the *EDGE* turn back to Him (The Lord). Don't *drift* into *darkness, drown* in *discouragement* and *depression*, or be self-*deluded* by falling into practicing *dissension, division, dishonor* and *disrespect* from the Familiarity Zone! **(Hebrews 2:1–4; Joshua 23:11; 2 Timothy 1:13–14; James 4:6 - 10).**

■ **LEARN TO HANDLE CRITICISM: (Read 1 Peter 3:8 – 10 [AMPC])**

■ In life, you either have been, are being, or will be \_\_\_\_\_. Learn to be proactive in forgiving everyone before you ever face them that day. Make the choice to forgive the critic of tomorrow. Have a heart to *listen* and *learn* what others are verbalizing – constructive feedback and criticism is good; destructive criticism is unhealthy. If we are to **do** more, we have to **endure** more. In other words, effectively handle the *criticism, complaints* and *concerns* that come to us.

■ **3 Truth Lessons from the Olive Tree (2 Timothy 2:3):** (1) The Olive Tree will not produce fruit unless it has experienced *the harsh winds* of the east and *the refreshing winds* of the west (good times and bad times). (2) Once the Olive Tree has produced its fruit, the fruit is not useful until it has gotten rid of its *hardness* and *bitterness* – the olive must be “cracked” ever so slightly and then it has to go through a process of being “salted” and “soaked”. Like the olive, human heart has a propensity to get *hard* and *bitter*. Painful experiences endured properly, tend to soften and tenderize us. We tend to be humbler and more compassionate towards others. (3) What is most valuable about the Olive Tree is not the fruit itself but the OIL – when the fruit is “hard pressed” that OIL (Olive Oil) comes out. And, the OIL is the only things that can be transferred to light. The Oil (Anointing) comes and light is on the way **(1 John 2:20, 27).**

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