

# BE NICE!

Part 6 of IMITATE ME. 2 Timothy 3:10-11.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. October 29, 2023.

## EQ BEATS IQ

**IQ is intelligence quotient. EQ is emotional quotient.**

- IQ measures reasoning ability. EQ measures relational ability.
- Business research shows people skills beat technical skills.

The technical skills that helped secure your first promotion might not guarantee your next. If you aspire to be in a leadership role, there's an emotional element you must consider. It helps you successfully coach teams, manage stress, deliver feedback, and collaborate with others... It's called emotional intelligence and is one of the most sought-after interpersonal skills in the workplace. In fact, 71 percent of employers value emotional intelligence more than technical skills when evaluating candidates (Lauren Landry: <https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/emotional-intelligence-in-leadership>).

## RELATIONSHIPS ARE PRIME

**The Christian life and ministry are very much about relationships.**

- Consequently, getting along with people is a significant aspect of spiritual maturity.

2 Timothy 3:10-11 (ESV) You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, **my patience**, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

- My “patience” is about people skills; especially with opponents.

**Jesus followers are called to develop a high EQ.**

1 Corinthians 13:1-2 (ESV) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic

powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

- God is be the best example of this kind of loving person:

1 John 4:9-10 (ESV) In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

- Mean Christians are an oxymoron. We're called to be something better.

## **WHY PEOPLE SKILLS MATTER**

### **1. People are created in the image of God.**

Genesis 1:26-27 (ESV) Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

- Image means representative. Humans are created to rule and dominion on earth in God's place. Therefore, every human is amazing with capacity to rule.
- We are more than bodies and biology; we are also spirits. After regeneration, our spirits come alive to God and commune with him.

Romans 8:11 (NLT) The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.

Romans 8:15-16 (NLT) you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." 16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

- People are amazing. Psalm 8 helps us reflect on this.

Psalms 8:3-6 (ESV) When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? 5 Yet you have made

him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet...

- Angels represent God in the heavenlies, we represent him on earth.
- Therefore we should develop skills to treat people with love and honor.

## **2. People are invited to eternal glory.**

- God has made a world-wide offer of eternal glory through Jesus Christ. First, he makes us holy and blameless before God:

Ephesians 5:25-27 (ESV) ... 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Image means representative.

- Our glorious future is astounding:

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (ESV) So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

1 John 3:2 (ESV) Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

- We will shine like the sun (Matthew 13:43), and rule the earth with Christ:

2 Timothy 2:10b-12a (ESV) ... that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him...

- That's why we should develop excellent people skills. The people we know are either in Christ and destined for glory, or they are not yet in Christ and need us to show them how to inherit glory. A high EQ helps us honor the first group and win over the second.

# SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

## GET STARTED

- Share one positive thing from your past week.

## DIVE IN

- Review the study guide. What were Pastor Peter's main ideas, insights, or Bible passages related to EQ or people skills?
- What are some reasons people give for their lack of people skills? Why are these excuses inadequate? In your opinion, can everyone improve their EQ?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22, and discuss Paul's insights into people skills.
- Read 2 Timothy 2:22-26. What can we learn about EQ from this passage?

## MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU

- Most conflict could be resolved in healthy ways if people developed and applied better people skills. Yes or no? Explain your answer.
- What has helped you develop higher EQ? People, experiences, books, videos, courses?

## PRAY TOGETHER

Pray for the members of the small group, your pastors/elders, the Cornerstone family, and our outreach partners.