

Internal Affairs 1

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The purpose of the next 4 weeks is to:

1. Discover why we do what we do.
 - Why do I always end up in the same place?
2. How to become healthy in our inward life.
 - Forming sound beliefs and discovering and eradicating the lies that we believe.

Ecclesiastes 3:3 - ...a time to tear down and a time to build **NIV**

3. How to ensure that the internal mechanisms that govern our decisions are sound and healthy.
 - Most of our decisions are reflexive.
 - Does our **inside picture** resemble **God's**?
4. How to remain hopeful while we fight through the process
 - Life is a battleground, not a playground.

All you need is Claude and God

- The problem with being blind is that you cannot see!
- We justify what we cannot understand.
- We often blame others and become offended because of the unhealthiness in our own lives.
- We sabotage relationships, distort reality, become offended, muddle clear waters, spiritualize our distortion, and demand that others see through our distorted lens.

Do you ever feel like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde?

- "You must suffer me to go my own dark way"
- Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Ephesians 1:16-18 - I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may **know him** better. 18 I pray also that **the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order **that you may know the hope** to which he has **called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance** in the saints. **NIV**

The problem is that we have **inherited** everything but His riches in our lives.

John 10:11 - "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. *NIV*

When we, as His sheep, believe we no longer are in need of the Shepherd's care and wander off, then we suffer dire consequences.

The sheep died simply because they went their own way and left the care of the shepherd.

How do we let the "Shepherd" shear the burdens that have impacted our daily lives?

When we don't discover the **truth** about our **inward lives**, we create havoc in our relationships.

CLAUDE CONTINUED...

You will be no happier than the state of your intimate relationships.

You will deal with your perspective in relationships in one of three manners:

1. Selfishly: I demand that you meet my needs.
2. Self-Reliantly: I deny that I have needs.
3. Self-Condemningly: I'm not good enough to have my needs met.

The reason unhealthiness impacts relationships is because predictability breeds confidence. Confidence is the basis for trust. Without trust a relationship will deteriorate because it has eroded the only secure foundation for sustainability.

- Healthy people are predictable.
- Unhealthy people are unpredictable.
 - Marriage, relationships, conflict, leadership, and life require predictability.
 - When you are unhealthy, your intuition is marred.

A person's intuition is important.

- People often have to make decisions based upon intuition, and unhealthiness skews or bends the light that enables wise decisions.
- People, spouses, and children have every right to expect predictability in crisis from a leader.
- When we are unhealthy, our focus is on ourselves and not the issue at hand.

Example: Grand opening of 2,400 seats and the sound stopped at the moment of countdown. My intuition of how to handle it would have been marred had I processed the event through the lens of my own needs, rather than the needs of those present. The ability to adlib, without having my insides churning, gave me the ability to make a wise decision and use the moment to build the people.

The sound often stops at the wrong moment in life.

God wants us to have an **internal control** that is abundant in **peace**.