

Worldview for the Marketplace: AUDIO #6	
LESSON AT A GLANCE	
“Mediating Grace” Threefold Cord: Living and Building Relationally	
MASTER PRINCIPLE #6 We grow in God by caring for people and things.	
Key scriptures:	Matt. 16:18, 25:31-46; Luke 16:10-12; John 14:6, 17:18-20, 20:22-23, 21:16; 1 Cor. 4:17, 11:1, 12:all; Eph. 3:14-18, 4:8-16; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 4:19-20
Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>Mutual need not only matures us, it is the essence of true community.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All life is grounded in Christ, and He is our mediator between us and God the Father. 2. “Mediating grace” is the genius of God and the “glue” of human community. 3. “Mediating grace” opens up for us the reality of the “triangle of life.” 4. As we see God’s love mediated to us through others, it connects us to Him in new and deeper ways.
How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:	
Key business applications: <i>The heart of any organization is the relational climate among team members.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All organizational relationships need a point of accountability to help mediate relational issues. 2. Every functioning member of a team contributes vitally to its success. 3. Our most important “witness” at the workplace is keeping Christ at the center of all our relationships. 4. Organizational leaders and managers are responsible for the heart of the organization, which is the relational climate of the enterprise.

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You are called to co-manage God’s creation in Christ.

Romans 8:17

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“Mediating Grace”

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #6:

We grow in God by caring for people and things.

- A. This lesson deals with another two colossally important issues:
 1. God builds relationally, and so must we. We must build upon God’s “mediating grace.”
 2. The foundation of any organization is its sense of mutual need, value, communication between its members, and its ability to serve others.
- B. Therefore this lesson lays the foundation for:
 1. Building successful business organizations.
 2. Clearly understanding the nature of the relational “glue” which permits organizations and community to function and operate as learning and serving organizations.

II. All life is grounded in Christ, and He is our mediator between us and God the Father.

(Matt. 16:18, 25:31-46; John 17:18-20, 20:22-23; 1 Cor. 4:17, 11:1, 12:all; Eph. 4:8-16; 1 Tim. 2:5)

- A. All believers are aware that Christ is our only mediator between God and man; He is the author and finisher of our salvation.
 1. A “mediator” is a “bridge” between parties, carrying communication and needs between them, and a mediator represents both parties to one another.
 2. While human beings can carry parts of God’s grace and service to one another, obviously only Christ can mediate Father’s salvation.
- B. A major part of the Catholic-Protestant conflict in the 1500s centered around this issue.
 1. The Roman Catholics held that the church officials could mediate salvation since they held the “keys to the kingdom” in the church’s founding Apostle Peter (Matt. 16:19; John 20:22-23).
 2. The Protestant position is that no man can mediate God’s saving grace and forgiveness of sin except Christ Jesus (John 14:6).
- C. As we discuss God’s mediating grace through people, we must be very clear that we are not talking about either salvation or the forgiveness of sins.
 1. Jesus made it very clear that serving each other serves Him, and in that sense people may represent His love and care between God and man (Matt. 25:31-46).
 2. Scripture makes it clear that people carry His gifts and power for mankind, representing or “mediating” on His behalf (1 Cor. 12:all; Eph. 4:8-16).
 3. Both Paul and Christ made it very clear that others could represent them, their ways, and life, to others (John 17:18-20; 1 Cor. 4:17, 11:1).
- D. Here are but a few examples of relationships modeling mediating grace:
 1. Parents mediating God’s provision and protection to their children.

2. God mediating His provision for us through animals and plants as our physical sustenance.
3. God mediating His governing empowerment through the five-fold gifts in man (Eph. 4:12-16).
4. The mediation of God's "masculine-feminine side" through marriage and brothers and sisters.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that "mediating grace" sounds like the heresy of the Catholic faith, placing the mediation of God's saving grace and forgiveness of sin on a person or a church.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, all organizational relationships need a point of accountability to help mediate relational issues. Only Christ can mediate God's saving grace and forgiveness of sin.

III. "Mediating grace" is the genius of God and the "glue" of human community (Lev. 26:8; 1 Cor. 12:23; Eph. 3:14-18, 4:15-16).

- A. As Rocky says in the movie, "I got gaps, you got gaps, we all got gaps," and so it is.
 1. God has created us all with strengths and weaknesses whereby we need God's gifts and love from Him, as the source of all good things, through each other.
 2. If any of us were self-sufficient, we would not need each other. Mutual human need is the genius of God whereby true community is held together.
 3. So it is in any family, church, business, or nation; all of us are needed to make us whole.
- B. This principle of mutual need actually produces the phenomenon of synergism.
 1. Synergism is the result of people pulling together, out of complementary engiftment, in such a way that two plus two produces six, not four (Lev. 26:8).
 2. This phenomenon is what makes great teams, companies, families, churches, etc.
- C. Paul's great exposition on mutual need is found in 1 Corinthians 12.
 1. It illustrates the mutuality of complementary gifts.
 2. It illustrates the need to honor all gifts, especially the ones that seem less essential (1 Cor. 12:23).
 3. It exemplifies the team-building spirit powerfully.
 4. The full knowledge of God will only come through community (Eph. 3:14-18).

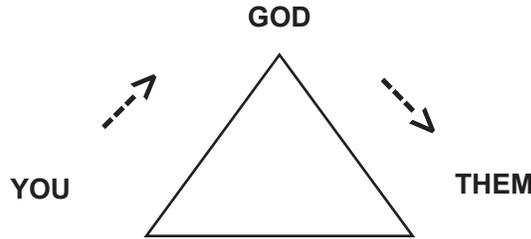
Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that human community is wonderful, but we all only really Deceptions need Jesus Christ.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, every functioning member of a team contributes vitally to its success. Jesus could meet all our needs in isolation, but He has chosen not to; He works through people. Mutual human need is the genius of God. It produces synergism for great teams, companies, families, churches.

IV. “Mediating grace” opens up for us the reality of the “triangle of life” (1 John 4:19-20).

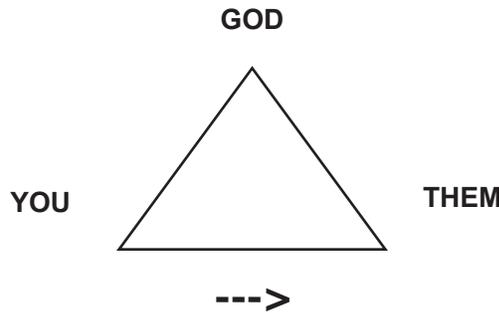
A. All relationships, in reality, involve you, them, and God.

1. Diagram of the **Triangle of Life**

a. Self-consciously relating to others with God fully in the equation.



b. Relating directly to others unconcerned with God being in the equation.



2. As Christians in business, as in all of life, we must practice living with God in this relational triangle and build this ethic into all relationships that can “hear it.”

B. We advocate that all ongoing relationships have some agreed-upon form of “rules of engagement” for meeting structures and conflict resolution.

1. Love “runs on rails,” that is, prior mutual agreements to which we hold all parties accountable.

2. A teaching titled, “The Rules of Engagement,” is available as a supplement to this worldview material.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that putting God in all relationships is a wonderful idea for Christians; Why don't they live like it?
Key Business Applications	The truth is, our most important “witness” at the workplace is keeping Christ at the center of all relationships. More than words, however, our life must measure up to what we say we believe.

V. As we see God's love mediated to us through others, it connects us to Him in new and deeper ways.

- A. As we have already seen, salvation, productivity, and deeper life are found in the context of community.
 - 1. The New Testament takes us into an "us" lifestyle (1 John 1:all).
 - 2. Isolation, or non-relational thinking, is a form of hell.
- B. All of these concepts obviously take us into the foundational issue of creating desirable and productive organizational "climates."
 - 1. The internal organizational climate will be exported externally!
 - 2. This raises the critical distinction of the kind of business or service you offer:
 - a. A functional transaction mode (product focus, low relational component)
 - b. A relational transaction mode (high relational component to the product or service use)
- C. All of these issues raise another important subject which we can only mention here; the righteousness-consciousness distinctive.
 - 1. "Righteousness" has to do with my standing before God.
 - 2. "Consciousness" has to do with my awareness of how others affect me, and how I affect them.
 - 3. All of us, especially Christians, need to work on our "relational IQ."

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that relationships are very important as a path toward self-fulfillment.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, organizational leaders and managers are responsible for the heart of the organization, which is the relational climate of the enterprise. While relationships may produce external benefits and a certain sense of personal value, the goal of relationships must not be self-serving.