

## 19-You Cannot Enlighten the Unconscious - But You Can Love Them

Self awareness is a gift that not everyone embraces! Early in my sales career I was introduced to a Wilson Learning program that postulated that we fall into four classifications-conscious competent, unconscious component, conscious incompetent and unconscious incompetent! Clearly if we are competent and conscious of our talents we are in the healthiest classification. However we are often confronted with the unconscious incompetent- those that are completely unaware of their faults and are completely unaware of how it affects those closest to them!

So how do you deal with the unconscious incompetent? Our natural instinct is to enlighten them. We attempt to help them become conscious of their state and then try to encourage them to develop their talents and become competent. As we struggle to enlighten these folks, we quickly discover that it's hard to bring enlightenment to those who are completely unaware of their need for enlightenment. As much as I want to encourage you to stick with it, I encourage you to understand that attempting to enlighten the unconscious ultimately leads to frustration. The unconscious remain unconscious and the person attempting to enlighten the unconscious slowly begins to harbor negative feelings toward the unconscious. No one wins in this scenario except the devil!!

The only approach is to LOVE the person! Yes, you must embrace them and love them!! Why? It's God's plan and His commandment. Jesus loved everyone. There was no one who was UNLOVEABLE in the eyes of Jesus. A second reason is our mission to be salt and light to a fallen world. Someone who is unaware of their situation needs massive amounts of love. They need unconditional love! It is not our job to "fix" people. Only the Holy Spirit has the power to help the unconscious become conscious. These folks are often hurting and the last thing they need is for us to walk away from them. We need to engage with everyone and then listen to the direction we receive from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit knows the best approach and we will know also if we listen carefully to the leading of our "helper".

Verses:

**Proverbs 10:12** "Hate stirs up trouble, but love forgives all offenses".

**Colossians 3:14** "Above all, be loving. This ties everything together perfectly".

**Proverbs 17:17** "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born out of a time of adversity".

**Ephesians 4:2** "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love".

**Luke 6:35** "But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them expecting to get nothing back. Then your reward will be great...."

### Personal Reflection:

Who do you need to love unconditionally? Can you go to that person and let them know you love them unconditionally? If you struggle to love your enemy, who can encourage you to overcome your struggle?

### Group Discussion:

Why do we struggle with the command to love our enemies?

Why does the devil want to isolate us from those who need our unconditional love?