

## Lily Tomlin

(comedian)

“The biggest source of stress in life is reality and those who chose to live in it.”

## Carl Jung

“Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, ‘Something is out of tune.’”

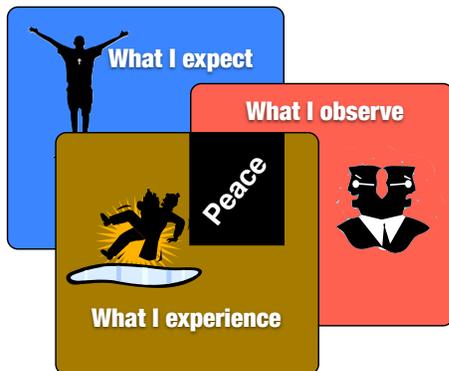
## Steven Covey

“Every human has four endowments - self awareness, conscience, independent will, and creative imagination.”

# Dissonance

Why we experience it  
and how it helps us.

## Dissonance is a great Disturber of the Peace



### Dissonance - intellectual conflict

**Psalm 78:69** “the earth which is founded forever”  
**2 Peter 3:10** “the earth and its works will be burned up”

### Dissonance - social conflict

**1 Corinthians 3:3**  
“for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?”

### Dissonance - moral conflict

**Romans 7:19**  
“For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. ”

## The Fall created a profound dissonance



**Genesis 3:10**  
“I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”

## Observation #1

**Dissonance**  
(cognitive, social & moral)  
**is a sign that we are  
in touch with reality  
as humans who bear  
the image of God.**

**Dissonance**  
is a testimony to the fact that:

Romans 2:15

“they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their **conscience bearing witness** and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,”

1.  
**we have two conflicting natures**

and

2.  
**one is in the image of God**

**Mixed motives are better than purely selfish motives,**

Galatians 5:17

“For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and he Spirit against the flesh; for these are **in opposition to one another**, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

1.  
**that know no restraint**

and

2.  
**harden the heart.**

## Observation #2

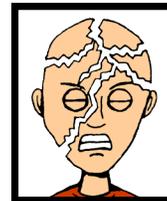
**Personal dissonance gives us insight into social conflicts and their solution.**

James 4:1

“What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? **Is not the source your pleasures that wage war** on your members?”

**Personal** ↔ **Social**

Dissonance



Conflict



**Three questions for conflict resolution**

✓ **Are we willing to recognize our fears?**

Love heals broken relationships.  
Love is blocked by fear.  
Fear lies at the foundation of the failure to love.

✓ **Are we willing to reveal our fears?**

Fellowship with God = confessing our failures.  
Fellowship with man = confessing our fears.

✓ **Are we willing to respect our fears?**

I cannot move you without addressing your fears.  
You will not move me until you address mine.

## Observation #3

**Dissonance**  
(cognitive, social & moral)  
**draws us**  
**to the Gospel -**  
transferring our hope  
from self to Christ.

The fact that we have an appetite for the Kingdom is our first step toward the King.



## Dissonance is removed by the Word of the Cross

- which is at the heart  
of the Power of the Spirit.



1.  
the Cross  
of Christ

and



2.  
the hope  
of glory.

### 1 Corinthians 1:18

“For the **word of the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God.**”



### 1 Corinthians 1:30

“But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, **who became to us** wisdom from God, and **righteousness** and **sanctification**, and **redemption.**”

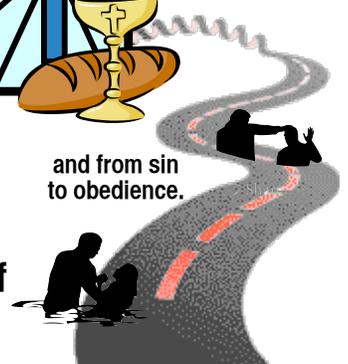


**Repentance is turning**



and from sin  
to obedience.

from self  
to God



## Observation #4

**Dissonance pressures us to grow.**

- with eyes on the Spirit  
not on the flesh.

Review

**Appreciate  
the human dignity  
embedded in dissonance.**

Through moral stress  
we see the image of God  
in us.

Review

**Appreciate  
the Gospel  
embedded in dissonance.**

Shame is God's tool before  
conversion and Satan's after.

Review

**Appreciate  
the peacemaker tools  
embedded in dissonance.**

Social conflict can be  
resolved by understanding  
the power of dissonance.

Review

**Appreciate  
the invitation to grow  
embedded in dissonance.**

Without pain,  
grace, & vision  
we don't change.

**God grades  
on the Cross  
not on the curve.**

*Because God takes your baptism seriously, when He looks at you, He sees His Son where you may see only your sin.*



*He invites you  
to do the same.*