

Revising the Blueprint for Love

David: In regards to human relationships, people have a great plan, and great plans do not always work. I was talking this morning about how the Army Corps of Engineers had this great idea called their Re-channelization Project. The idea was to rid the South of all kinds of drainage and other problems, by converting all the streams from meandering and curved and filled with frogs and water lilies, to straight. (laughs) So they got out their two-billion dollar budget and their huge and specialized equipment, and they converted hundreds of miles of streams, watersheds, from meandering to straight (laughs), in an effort to improve drainage and God knows what all else it was for.

The result, needless to say, was absolute disaster. Farmlands started to erode away at an alarming rate because there was no protection from rocks and so forth; there were just these huge, absolutely survey-straight dirt v-ditches where there used to be streams. The dirt just eroded away on all sides. And the result was absolute disaster. But it “made sense”: if it was straight, it would flow better, it would go faster, and everything would work better. And it did not.

People have plans for love that look every bit as good as those on paper, and work every bit as bad. And at the heart of most plans is that, “I will find a certain person to love”—Mister or Ms. Right, as they’re commonly named—“and that is the single one whom I will mainly and essentially love. I will give a moderate amount of attention and love to others—but strictly controlled according to my blueprint.”

There is something about that plan that does not work, that does not take into account a few things about nature. One of the things that it does not take into account is every being who does not have one’s real committed love, and who comes into contact with one, is going to suffer real and bitter disappointment.

Now, it’s easy to chalk that up to the weak and misguided hopefulness of others, and to the weakness of their capacity to accept rejection, or to accept unlove as one’s contribution to their life. But there’s more to it than that. There is the fact that one’s own integrity, sense of goodness, sense of value, sense of a positive purpose in life, cannot stand the feeling of being unloving. So the strategy of loving only one, and seeking to limit relations or reject all others, is a strategy which leads to not only heartbreak outside of oneself (or disappointed others), but also a disappointed self and a sense of profound guilt, inadequacy—

sinfulness, if you happen to be of a religious persuasion. And people don't take this unfortunate side effect of this huge project into account.

The amusing thing is that unforeseen effects of projects may very well be real effects. And just because the Army Corps of Engineers has not taken into account certain things does not mean that those things necessarily will not happen. They may well, and they may be an absolute disaster. Just like the whole nuclear problem: where are you going to bury this stuff? Everybody says, "Well, as far as we know, this'll work for as long as we can think." But something always goes wrong. You don't take everything into account. And we have this idea that, "I will find Mr. or Ms. Right and I will love Mr. and Ms. Right, and as far as I know, that'll work perfectly."

But "as far as I know" isn't always far enough. It isn't far enough to take into account the real things that may really happen as a result of this project, this purpose, this blueprint, this plan, this design. This design to love one, primarily and exclusively, and to reject all others, fundamentally and overwhelmingly in the end, is a plan that leaves behind a trail of devastation and destruction and heartache that is hard to forget. When you look back over the course of the relationships you've had with people and how they've ended; when you consider all the people that have rejected each other, and you think of how many are left out of all those relations; and you think of the feelings that remain of all the relationships that *didn't* work out, that aborted because of this concept that it was necessary to reject all others; when you think of all of that, you begin to realize what an ineffective and ill-conceived plan this really was, for practical purposes.

We need a new plan—a plan that takes into account the information that nature has provided us about the way things work. Nature has provided us with the information that no single human heart has ever been happy with rejection, with non-commitment, or with unlove. And that, although it's true that we cannot profoundly give our entire selves and lives to each and every being on the whole planet, it is also true that we *can* fulfill more relationships than we think. And we can be wholehearted and committal in ways that *do* work and *do* succeed and *are* valid and viable with many more people than we think.

Take your average casual friendship. The human organism is so sensitive to commitment and to love—to its presence or absence—that when you have a friend and you call your friend up on the phone, and your friend doesn't have any time for you today....

The last time you saw them, they were fine. And today, they don't have any time for you, and you don't figure into their plan of the day, and they don't particularly

want to talk to you. So you have this cold conversation that is alarming. You hang up the phone. Your heart is broken.

Or you go over to someone's house, and you look at them right away and you realize that you are not in their plan. You don't even have to speak. You walk in the room of an intimate and the person doesn't hardly look up, and the thing they say is cold and unfeeling. It's pretty obvious that they don't plan to love you today. You know?

And your heart is broken. You walk away. You may think, "Well, they're busy. Well, I can understand that. You need your space." You rationalize it. You try to make yourself happy with it. But the mechanism of the human heart is more sensitive than people can take into account. The mechanism of the human heart and the human emotional dimension is so sensitive that it misses *nothing* of all of that; nor does it miss the significance of the rejection that other people are handing you at that moment. It does not miss the significance of the fact that you are nothing to them today, very little; and they are too busy for you; and how devastating that really feels. It can be the most casual thing, and yet it can feel so bad.

We need to take the human heart into account better. And find ways to continue and persist in love relationships with more beings, in such a way as to not create even the most minor disappointments that we all believe we are used to. But you know what? We never get used to it. Isn't that the strangest thing? That's not on paper. That's not in the plan. The plan is that you can accept these things without any trouble. The reality is you cannot.

Therefore, we have two choices: To continue to go with the plan and wonder why the plan doesn't work; or adapt the plan to reality.

Let me give you another example. There are certain carcinogens in the world that are so positively effective that the scientists are making efforts to try to determine the limit of dosage of those items which will not produce tumors. And the interesting finding on some of these substances is that the scientists have been unable to find a dosage level small enough not to produce tumors. There is no drop small enough that can be put in a vat big enough to create a dilution thin enough not to produce tumors.

So the plan was in the administration, in the use of these substances that, in fact a little of this shouldn't bother anybody. And now the scientists in the laboratories are perplexed by the fact that even though they've brought the

dosage levels down to one part per trillion, by this endless dilution, it still produces the same effect.

It's marvelous, it's unbelievable, that the human body has a degree of sensitivity that could not have been foreseen. So minute and so ultra-sensitive that at a time when the scientific instruments of measurement can no longer discern the presence of the substance in a batch, the human body can still determine it. It points out something about the miracle of life, something about the marvelousness of God's creations and the infinite sensitivity thereof.

In *exactly* the same way, the human heart is sensitive. In theory, it should not matter that friends blow hot and cold. In theory, one moment of rejection, or needing space, withdrawal and all of that, shouldn't make any difference. And yet, neither I, nor any of the other scientists who have studied this problem, have been able to determine a dosage of rejection small enough for someone not to notice. We are amazed, we are thrilled, and we are shocked at the implications of our finding.

The happy results of this finding are that you have to love everybody. And the happier results are that such a thing is actually quite possible. People will spin off from you for reasons of their own, without making excessive demands on you, if you are perfectly honest. But that does not mean that you have to not love them.

And this is not a clarion call to the ultimate debauch, promiscuity, bacchanalian revelry. No. That's not what this is. In fact, moments of disappointment happen just as much in relationships that have *no* sexual content whatsoever as in relationships that have sexual potential. We're not talking about sexual potential. We're talking about the obligation of human beings to have time and love for one another on a consistent basis, and to recognize that it matters as much to *me* as a human being to love them, as it does to *them* to be loved by me. And that the only way I can feel good about myself is in fact if I *do* take them into account, *do* commit my life and energy to them, in ways that are moral, loving, and perfect. That is the obligation of these findings. And there is no way around it that I can discern.

We must blast through the lie of our plan to love *one*, and get to the point where we become willing to literally and bodily commit our energies, and life, and love to every one. It's the only way beyond guilt, because it's the only solution that the human heart will accept—ours *or* the hearts of the others. The concept that the people who are apparently peripheral to us don't matter is not true. They *do* matter, and we *feel* the effects of every interchange with those who are *supposed* to be peripheral, as if they were *not* peripheral. Because the heart is too sensitive

to have a category of “peripheral.” There is no category “peripheral.” Just like there is no nominalness nominal enough not to feel.

We cannot have a plan not to love. We cannot have a plan not to love perfectly, and have that be a good plan. We cannot pre-ordain who we will love and who we will not love, and have that work. It will only leave a trail of broken hearts and guilty selves. When we look at people with this monogamous dream perception, we are looking at them through the eyes of sin. We are planning not to love someone, and the plan is an abortion of life, abortion of morality, abortion of the truth as *we* experience it.

We have to act on the basis of what we experience, and not on the basis of what we think would be a good plan. That’s the trouble with the Army Corps of Engineers. They do not act on the basis of the true perceptions of the subtlety of nature. They act on the basis of what seems like “a pretty good plan.”

We have to take into account more than they do. We have to take into account what has happened when we have done and acted according to our plan, and dropped people for Mr. and Ms. Right at the drop of a hat. We have to take into account how we’ve felt when we’ve acted cold and unavailable. We have to take into account how it’s felt to us when other people have acted that way in relationship to us. And whether we are willing to sow the seeds of that same behavior, which has broken our hearts on so many countless tiny occasions.

When a person becomes willing to live by that standard of perception, and to adapt their own strategy of loving to become universal, inclusive, and real in relationship to people in *all* circles of orbit around oneself—either the most immediate lover, or friends and acquaintances—when we do that, we will be happy son-of-a-bitches, and we will not feel the burden of guilt so much. Not at all. That’s what has to happen, and then people will be happy to see our faces, and they will not subtly intuit, *immediately*, our judgment, our plan of rejection, our plan of unlove for them.

People are too subtle to trick. People are too subtle not to know. People are too subtle not to feel this refusal to love, *immediately*. We have to take into account that sensitivity. And we are the same sensitive one. Therefore, we are the one who will act and create a life based on our knowing, and on our experience of the laws of nature, and the laws of love. And recognize that only in real, unstinting, and not premeditated, pre-decided, pre-controlled loving, will we in fact live happily.

You must make a new plan, which is to love everybody who will accept love, absolutely, without reservation, and without planning them out of the picture from the very beginning. *Never* planning them out of the picture. *Never* planning them out of your plan. *Never* planning them out of the design, the blueprint of your life. You will create a blueprint that includes the sensitive and perfect nature of human beings, takes it into account—including ourself. Which is a blueprint of universal and unqualified love and commitment.