

# CAN I LOVE WITHOUT AN AGENDA?

The question I often get when I talk about my company, Love Without Agenda, is this: 'Isn't love an agenda in itself?'

So let's talk about that.

Love is a fairly complex thing that I spend a lot of time discussing in the second half of the book. For this discussion let's agree that love is essentially: the recognition that something has inherent value and choosing to respond.

Love recognizes inherent value.  
Agenda filters value.

I believe that people are valuable simply because they exist.

People don't have to do anything to be valuable.  
People can't do anything to be less valuable.

This is the nature of love.

Love does not filter peoples value  
Love has no agenda.

Love is not an agenda unto itself.  
Love is the opposite of agenda.

If love recognizes the inherent value of people:

No matter their finances  
No matter their relationships  
No matter their theology  
No matter their baggage

No matter their color  
No matter their politics

No matter our agenda in life  
No matter our agenda for them  
No matter what—  
People are valuable.

Agenda is a whole different animal.

Agenda says I'll love you:

If you have the right finances  
If you have the right relationships  
If you have the right theology  
If you have the right baggage  
If you have the right color  
If you have the right politics

Agenda takes whatever is standing in front of us...  
And asks if this person or thing benefits us.

Agenda does not love the person—agenda loves the end result the person provides.

These are two totally different perspectives.  
These are polar opposites.

When we "love" people thru our agenda, we make the person an object that helps us move toward what we want. We objectify the person. This is hurtful and damaging to them. We confuse agenda with love.

Agenda is more complex than just getting people to give us what we want. There is a second way that agenda reveals itself in culture and is often confused with love. This expression of agenda is more subtle, but still no closer to love.

FYI: {A FEW THINGS THAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER}

Many of my friends suffer from this expression of agenda and often confuse advancing their agenda with loving people.

In this case, agenda says I love you because:

- I want you to believe like I believe.
- I want you to be straight like I am.
- I want you to be rich like I am.
- I want you to be happy like I am.
- I want you to see the world like I do.

Agenda engages people with the intention of helping them by making them like us.

Agenda approaches people, seeking to conform them to our pattern of life. Agenda assumes that the person in front of them needs to accept certain things to become more valuable. Agenda engages people under the guise of love, but is actually seeking to move people closer to what we want—from them or for them.

This is not love.

If love sees people as inherently valuable  
If love says that people are valuable no matter what.

And

If agenda says that people are conditionally valuable  
If agenda says that people must change to be valuable.

You tell me:  
Can you love thru an agenda?

I think it would be pretty tough to love someone while having an agenda for them. When we have an underlying ideological plan for others—and we filter their value thru that agenda; we miss the inherent value that each person already has.

We miss the simple and profound truth of love.  
Woven into the fabric of love is a complete absence of agenda.

Agenda will never be able to love..because the nature of love and agenda are intrinsically at war with one another. They will always be at war with one another in our hearts because they're actually polar opposites.

Agenda is our counterfeit love.

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