



**Session Outline and Discussion Question**  
“The Art Of Manipulation”  
Vince D’Acchioli, Session 15

**Session Outline:**

*“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us”*

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Larry Crabb, in his book, *The Marriage Builder*, says that in all human interaction you are doing one of two things. You are either *ministering* or *manipulating*.

**What is my motive? A question we cannot ask often enough.**

In today’s culture men are often thought of as master manipulators. Often times we deserve the label. We need to check our hearts often when it comes to our desires. What is at the root? Are we looking for something to bring us a sense of security that can really only be found through our Lord?

**Life Implication:**

“You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss . . .” ( [James 4:3](#) ). If you ask for things from life instead of from God, “you ask amiss”; that is, you ask out of your desire for self-fulfillment. The more you fulfill yourself the less you will seek God. “. . . seek, and you will find . . .” Get to work—narrow your focus and interests to this one thing. Have you ever sought God with your whole heart, or have you simply given Him a feeble cry after some emotionally painful experience? “. . . seek, [focus,] and you will find . . .”

Oswald Chambers, June 10th

**James 4:10** “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”



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