



Lessons On Life & Leadership // Carey & Toni Nieuwhof // November 29, 2020

Our founders, Carey and Toni Nieuwhof, shared lessons on life, leadership, and ministry they have learned over the past 25 years. A conversation on the highlights and insights from the early days of launching Connexus until today, plus a look ahead to the future as we continue to create a church that unchurched people love.

Scripture: [Hebrews 12:1-3](#)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honour beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

Jumping In:

1. What was something that stood out to you from the interview with Carey and Toni?
2. Looking back on your own life, what would you say to the 25 year-old version of you?
3. We heard Carey and Toni share about why they felt they needed to start a different kind of church 13 years ago called Connexus. What excites you about being a part of a church that unchurched people love heading into the future?
4. Carey talked about the difference between competency and character and how one limits the other in leadership and relationships. What are your thoughts? Where would you lean more--towards character or competency? Why is that?
5. Another topic Carey and Toni addressed was the importance of mentors. What kind of people did they suggest looking for? What qualities are crucial? Who do you look to as a mentor in your life?
6. Take a few minutes to share your own highlight from being a part of Connexus. Why was that an important moment to you?
7. Carey and Toni both spoke to those who might be "on the fence" about their faith. If you consider yourself a Christian, what would you share with your unchurched friends who are on a journey of discovering Jesus? If you're not yet sure where you stand on the whole idea of faith in Jesus, what question(s) would you ask someone who you trusted?

Moving Forward:

As you reflect on the influence and impact Carey and Toni have had on so many people as a result of their faithfulness to God's calling, think about what God might be calling you to do. What is that prompting? As you identify it, share it with someone you trust, and talk through how you might respond to that leading from God.

If you would like to send a note of thanks to Carey and Toni, you can send them an email to thankyou@connexuschurch.com.