

## Questions to consider when reading Chapter 4

1. In your reading of chapter 4 what was new to you or had an effect on you? Did you read anything that raised questions in your mind?
2. “The first sign you have an elder-brother spirit is that when your life doesn’t go as you want, you aren’t just sorrowful but deeply angry and bitter.” (p.49)

What thoughts, feelings, and assumptions lead to such anger and bitterness? (see pages 49-50)

3. Richard Lovelace writes, “[People] who are no longer sure that God loves and accepts them in Jesus, apart from their present spiritual achievements, are subconsciously radically insecure persons.”

Do you agree with his assessment? Why or why not?

4. If your motivation to do good is to earn God’s favor, how does this affect the goodness of the action?
5. How would the attitude of the elder brother make it harder for the younger brother to come home? How can you prevent this from happening in your own life and in your church? (see pages 66-67)
6. Consider yourself in light of what we’ve learned about the two brothers. Do you tend to behave more like a younger brother or more like an elder brother? Were there times in your past when you behaved more like one than the other?