

**ONE TO ONE MINISTRY—*OUTLINE*****The Handiest Tool for People-Building**

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**INTRODUCTION**

The essential purpose of ministry is to see people transformed. The hope as a church is to see this change happen in a corporate setting, as we share a message each week based on our study of God's word. Our desire is that people will be touched regarding particular areas of their lives that we may never know anything about. However, in addition, as we observe Jesus' ministry we see that He taught the multitudes and also spent time with the disciples, one on one. Our relationship with God is lived out corporately as well as individually. Not only did God speak to the nation of Israel, He is also intimately acquainted with each one of us.

Our goal in ministry is to offer counsel and exhortation to people based on where they are and what they need, because this reflects how God deals with us. His ways are more than simply rules and regulations for His own sake. He longs to speak to us about what we each need individually. Effective ministry mirrors the heart of God for His people.

- I. Understanding the Role of Shepherd.
  - A. Give People Permission to Be Themselves with Unique Personalities, Giftings and Life Experiences.
  - B. "Follow Me," Means More than Memorizing Doctrine; Share what We've Learned.
  - C. Let God Reveal the Strategy to Reach People; God Has Different Strategies for Different Situations.
  - D. Don't Seek Glory—I Thessalonians 2:5-12.

- E. Willingness to Expend Myself for the Sake of Building Others; Boaz Risked His Inheritance.
- F. Be An Example—I Timothy 4:10-16.

## II. Laying a Foundation of Credibility.

### A. Jesus Christ as the Foundation—Follow His Example.

- 1. Become a servant—humble yourself (Philippians 2).
  - a. Come under others to lift them up.
  - b. Admit when I am wrong; be willing to die to self.
- 2. Keep eyes and ears on God the Father.

### B. Developing Credibility Is a Process.

- 1. Be willing to suffer for others—I Peter 2.
- 2. How we live in secret has huge consequences.
- 3. How we live in public; show people we love them.
- 4. People know if your ambition is for yourself or them.

## III. Sifting the Soil.

### A. People Are Raw Material—Look for Potential

### B. Don't Just Look for Talents; What Does God Intend for Them?

- 1. Obedience will transform lives.
- 2. Develop people based on their gifts; recognize the differences.

3. Look beyond the surface—good on the outside doesn't mean healthy.

#### IV. The Hearing Heart.

##### A. Be Aware of the Specifics of People's Situations; Listen Reflectively and Prophetically.

1. People don't need "canned" answers.
2. Three way dialog—them, God and me.
3. God doesn't always answer specific questions; He asks questions.

##### B. Two Traps to Avoid:

1. We don't listen well and offer standard answers—pray more, read Bible.
2. Only give answers on a human basis—we must have God's input.

##### C. Tap into the Deeper Issues.

1. Effective ministry blends kindness and truth.
2. Be compassionate.
3. Know your Bible well.
4. Look for patterns of behavior.

#### V. Encouraged to Build People Up—1 Thessalonians 5.

##### A. Remind People of Their Future, Not Their Past—Jeremiah 29:11

1. God intends for us to help each other.
2. Obedience is the key to the future—Ephesians 2:10.

B. Challenge the Way People Think.

1. God's thoughts aren't our thoughts.
2. False conclusions.
3. Give them an accurate understanding of what God thinks of them.

C. Use Your Authority to Affirm People.

1. Let Them See Your Troubles.

D. Encouragement for Ourselves; What Causes Our Exhaustion?

1. Sometimes we're in a desert – exhausted, not wrong.
2. Recognize poor habits of eating and sleeping.
3. Look for unconfessed sin.
4. God develops our endurance and character—often before “promotion.”
5. Change may be coming; our role no longer “fits.”
6. Other people's sin can drain us.
7. God wants to increase our compassion.

VI. Confronting the Unruly.

A. Admonish the Unruly—I Thessalonians 5:14.

1. Warn people of foundations built on sand.
2. God's word judges—we don't have the right to judge.
3. Goal is that they experience more of the good God has.

4. Our words must be biblically centered.

#### B. Why We Don't Confront?

1. We don't want people to be unhappy; we are peacekeepers not peacemakers.
2. Hope the problem will go away if we ignore it.
3. We don't want to sound superior.
4. We have the wrong view of confrontation—not angry or loud.
5. We don't realize that God tells us to and holds us responsible—2 Timothy 2.
6. Deal with Our Own Sin First.

#### C. Keys to Confrontation.

1. Earn the privilege.
2. Ask for permission.
3. Identify with their struggle.
4. Believe the best about them.
5. Keep pointing to their future.
6. *Offer* counsel; don't insist on it.

### VII. Leading People to Repentance.

#### A. Balanced Approach—Legalism vs. Mercy.

1. Theology of Repentance—a Gift (Acts 5).

2. Obedience Is the Key; Follow What God Is Saying.
- B. Convince People That Sin Doesn't Separate Them from God's Love.
1. Repentance Leads to Refreshing—Acts 3:19.
  2. Repentance Is an Opportunity.
  3. Must Confess First—Acknowledge the Wrong We've Done Without Blaming Others.
  4. Be Honest with Sharing Our Lives.
  5. The little sins on a daily basis destroy us.
  6. When others see my sin and confession, they have hope for themselves.

## VIII. Pointing To God.

- A. God Draws Us to Himself.
- B. No Substitute for Knowing God.
1. The Bible gives us an understanding about who God is.
    - a. God is near to the brokenhearted.
    - b. God is parental.
    - c. God is not just an "answer man."
    - d. God wants to be with us.
  2. People can know doctrine and not know God.
- C. Encourage Others to Find the Heart of God.
1. What aspects of your life is God dealing with?

- a. Listen for God, not just the answer to your question.
  - b. Scattered thinking—Isaiah 26.
2. Tell people revelations from your own life.
  3. Sit with them even if you don't have an answer.
  4. Encourage people to write down the verses God gives them.
  5. Teach people to look for confirmation in scripture.
  6. Remind them that God's words are like mustard seeds.

## IX. Keeping Open Hands.

### A. We Must Be Able to Receive and Embrace As Well As Let Go.

### B. We Work for God.

1. Don't let others dictate how we disciple them—Galatians 1:10, I Thessalonians 2:4.
2. Limit your counsel to His ways.
3. Don't let go of God to reach someone else, no matter how much we love them.
4. Don't leave truth behind and partner with their sin.

### C. People Are Free to Make Their Own Choices.

1. Remind them of the consequences.
2. Warn them of danger.

### D. We must draw people to the Lord.

1. Spend quiet time with God.
  2. Make sure we rest physically.
  3. Give the burdens of others to God.
  4. Guard against ministry being about me.
- E. Recognize That There Will Be Disappointments and Discouragement.
1. Even Jesus had people walk away from Him.
  2. It isn't selfish to care for ourselves.
  3. Keep being repentant.
  4. Suffering for others means life comes from our death.
  5. Our strength comes from the Lord.

## X. Cultivating Growth.

- A. Temptation Is Common to Everyone.
1. Physical temptation—comes with a statement.
    - a. "You deserve..."
    - b. "You really need this..."
    - c. "You can handle it..."
  2. Mental temptation = self-pity, self-righteousness, indignation, pride.
  3. Don't choose sin to get you out of affliction.
- B. Temptation Tells Us God Isn't Great or Good, and He Won't Take Care of Our Needs.



1. What is *God* saying?
  2. What are my choices?
  3. What is righteous?
- C. Decide That God Is the Only Option—Job 13:15.