

A Theology of Caring – Pastor Steve Dawson

I. The Interruption (Genesis 1:26-28)

"Personal ministry must begin with a humble recognition of the inescapable nature of our need." – Paul David Tripp

Humans:

Christians:

II. The Incarnation

The key to relationships, the key to caring is an understanding of the incarnation, because it is Jesus' personal model for us.

Key Points to Ponder (Key passage – Philippians 2:5-11)

i. Be Present / *involved* (Phil. 2:7b – "...was born as a human being.")

We must become accessible to others by intentionally placing ourselves in the midst of their subculture. I Cor. 5:9-12

What are our objections?

- a. "I don't feel comfortable in those situations."
- b. "I don't have time to do this."
- c. "They wouldn't really want me there"
- d. "It's not that important, it won't make a difference or work."

Answers

- a. "That's your problem. GET comfortable."
- b. "Make time, or admit your lack of faith."
- c. "Yes, they will, if you don't come on as a superior or judge."
- d. "It is. It takes perseverance, courage, and a little savvy."

ii. Be Interested (Phil. 2:7a – "...gave up his divine privileges...position as a slave")

iii. Be Humble (Phil. 2:6 – "...equality with God as something to cling to.")

iv. Be Self-Giving (Phil. 2:8 – "...died a criminal's death on a cross.")

v. The Strategy (Phil. 2:20 – "I have no one else like Timothy...")

vi. The Support (Phil. 2:1-2 – "...fellowship together in the Spirit...")

vii. The Motive (Phil. 2:11 – "...to the glory of God the Father.")

viii. The Cost (Phil. 2:7-8 – "...humble position...obedience...death on a cross.")

III. A Biblical Foundation for One-on-One Ministry

- a. Biblical Basis
- b. Basic Biblical Assumptions

IV. The Goal of One-on-One Ministry

- a. Jesus Christ
 - i. Ephesians 4:11-16
- b. Self-Centeredness vs. Christlikeness

“An obsessive preoccupation with ‘my happiness,’ however, often obscures our understanding of the biblical route to deep, abiding joy.” – Larry Crabb

Ephesians 4:13, 15

It is our responsibility as fellow members of the body to continually remind and exhort each other to keep in view the goal of all true counseling: to free people to better worship and serve God by helping them become more like the Lord.

V. Three Primary Resources

- a. The Word
 - The truth will set you free. **John 8:32**
 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **Hebrews 4:12**
- b. The Spirit
 - Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. **John 16:7**
 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. **John 16:13**
 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. **John 16:3**
- c. The Body of Christ
 - Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? **1 Corinthians 3:16**
 - ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. **Ephesians 4:15-16**