

Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands



love – know – speak – DO



::THINK TOGETHER::

1) What are the potential dangers of leaving a brother or sister in Christ to manage heart change on their own?

2) What benefits are to be gained from following up our truth speaking with active help?

The Roadmap to Biblical Change

In much the same way, we are not to rhyme off a set of directions to a brother or sister who is newly face-to-face with the new territory that our truth-speaking has laid out for them. We are not to bail on them too soon. No, we are to passenger with them as we offer them direction. There are 4 things we should seek to do:

1) **Establish Clear** _____

- a) We should map out the destination
- b) True personal ministry seeks to follow through on truth speaking to passenger with a person by applying the commands, principles, and themes of God's redeeming work to the concrete realities of a person's life.
- c) Here's where we ask two important questions:
 - i. **What does the Bible say about the information that has been gathered?**
 - ★ This is looking at everything about this person and their predicament through the lens of Scripture in order to understand how a distinctively biblical world-view shapes that person's response. So we ask, 'what has god taught, promised, commanded, warned, encouraged and done that addresses this situation?'
 - ii. **What are God's goals for change for this person in this situation?**
 - ★ This questions applies God's call to 'Put Off' sinful ways and 'Put On the new self' to the specifics of a person's thoughts, motives and behaviour. In Ephesians 4 we read that we are *to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24 ESV)*
 - ★ What does God want your brother or sister in Christ to think, desire and do?



::THINK TOGETHER::

In groups of FIVE, return to the Sharon and Ed scenario and try to identify 1) what God's Word has to say about the situation and 2) What God's goals for change might be.

Sharon approached me after the Sunday service. She said that her marriage was a disaster and that she needed to talk immediately. We set up a time to meet and I asked her to invite her husband, Ed. However, Sharon came alone, telling her story emotionally and in great detail. Ed had been unwilling to come, telling her to "get her act together" or he was "out of here."

Sharon told of an increasingly violent relationship. She and Ed were no longer sleeping in the same room or going anywhere together. They had separate bank accounts and had recently agreed that it was best to eat supper separately. Their two young children took turns eating with each parent

Even before their marriage, they had experienced communication problems. Ed felt that Sharon was always trying to control him. Sharon felt that Ed never paid attention to her viewpoint unless she "made it real clear." Yet Ed said that Sharon was the most beautiful woman in the world and Sharon said that Ed was the best thing that ever happened to her.

Ed was a "mover and shaker" with an expanding import business, and Sharon enjoyed being with people that "matter." She had lived in foster homes all her life and never knew her natural parents. Ed was raised in a working class urban neighbourhood. Ed had said for years that Sharon was slowly destroying his manhood. Sharon confessed to two affairs during the marriage. Ed was very angry, and she appeared to be the same.

Sharon made her agenda very clear when we talked. "I am not here to work on me," she said. "I think I am okay. I am here because my marriage is in trouble. Do you think you can get my husband to talk to you? He's the one who needs help!"

1) What does God's Word have to say about the situation?

2) What are God's goals for change?

2) **Establish Clear** _____

- a) Tripp's diagram called "the circles of responsibility"
 - i) The inner circle represents a person's sphere of responsibility. So, all of the things that the Bible calls a person to do, (with God's help, in the midst of their present situation. So in Sharon's situation,
 - ii) The outer circle represents those things that are important to a person yet are outwith their control (e.g. reciprocal love of a spouse, someone else's behaviour). In this sphere we are called to recognise our limits, trust God who is faithful to his promises and sovereign over all things and to pray.

- b) The problem! People aren't quite sure how to respond to being face to face with the need for change and as a result have a tendency to do one of two things.
 - i) To be irresponsible – These are people who fail to shoulder the responsibilities to which God has clearly called them.
 - ii) To be overly responsible – These are people who tend to take as their responsibility the things that God has not called nor enabled them to do.

3) **Establish Clear** _____

- a) People need good truth that will motivate them, so bring the gospel into the room. Call on them to remember the gospel daily. The Bible describes all who put their faith and trust in Jesus as 'in Christ'. Our identity is so tied up with him that we are adopted into the family of God, united to God in Christ and recipients of the promises of God. The problem is, in the press of everyday life, we tend to forget who we are. It's easy to forget our status as God's children.
- b) One of the best identity passages in the Bible is 2 Peter 1:3-9.

4) **Establish Clear** _____

- a) **Biblical Accountability is Positive!**
 - i) Positive in its _____

 - ii) Positive in what it _____

- b) **What biblical accountability provides**
 - i) Accountability Provides _____

 - ii) Accountability Provides _____

 - iii) Accountability Provides _____

 - iv) Accountability Provides _____

 - v) Accountability Provides _____