

Week Two: Vision of a Good Helper

LOVE

"Love highlights the importance of relationships in the process of change. Theologians call this a covenantal model of change. God comes and makes a covenant with us. He commits himself to be our God and he takes us as his people. In the context of this relationship, he accomplishes his work of making us like him" (Tripp, *Instruments*, p. 110).

What does LOVE look like in helpful relationships?

1. Devotion to one another is reflective of God's devotion and love for us

- Look at Jesus **John 17:12; 13:1**
- "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love" (Rom. 12:10).
- "...fervently love one another from the heart" (1 Peter. 4:22).
- "and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you" (1 Thess. 3:12).

2. Enter the person's world

- **Jesus is chief in exemplifying entering into our world isn't He (Phil. 2:5-7; John 3:16-17). The Love of God motivated His coming into our world that we might be saved through Him.**
- Caring about and understanding a person's experience. We are not trying to fix people and problems. We are trying to love and understand them in order to help them.
- Suspend judgment. Avoid quick solutions. Avoid religious platitudes.
- Really listen instead of thinking about what you are going to say next.
- Question – When was the last time someone really entered your world? When was the last time you entered another person's world? What was it like? How would you describe it?

3. Identify with suffering

- Are we touched by another's suffering? Do we weep easily when another is severely afflicted?
- "Let love of the brethren continue...Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body" (Heb. 13:1, 3).
- "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep" (Rom. 12:15). That's what love does...it enters in.

4. Accept with Agenda

- Jesus, John 8:10-11; His food was to do the will of His Father; Expect Jesus to come in and re-arrange all the furniture of your life.
- We want God's agenda.
- Titus 2:11-14
- "We sturdily refuse to condemn, but we also refuse to condone" (Tripp, p. 159).
- Question – Whose agenda is ruling your marriage? Husband, Wife, Child? Whose agenda rules in our relationships with one another?