

# Gaining Involvement

**THE GOSPEL**  
INSTITUTE

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# Goal of Biblical Soul-Care Giver

Meet the Sufferer with Character/Integrity, Love, Compassion, Humility, Wisdom...Point to CHRIST!



**Radical Heart-change – for both believer and unbeliever**

# Involvement

1. Involvement refers to establishing trust that produces a God-honoring, change-facilitating relationship.
2. Involvement breaks thru the natural barriers of fear of exposure, failure, shame, rejection, belittlement, etc.
3. Gaining involvement is like obtaining “passport” or entrance into the heart of another person.
4. Enables you to demonstrate love, compassion, tangible help and heart-reviving Hope through the ministry of the *Word of God*, through the *power of the Holy Spirit* in the fellowship of *believers in community*.
5. Biblical relationships are not possible without establishing loving *involvement*.

# Gaining Involvement

...by love serve one another. (Gal. 5:13)

But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. (1 Th. 2:7-8)



# Gaining Involvement

1. Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the **ministry of reconciliation**...
2. And the **message of reconciliation**...
3. **Ambassadors** [workers/laborers] of Christ  
(2 Cor. 5:14-21)



The aim of our charge is **love** that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Tim. 1:5

# Involvement is not merely Sympathy

1. Sympathy is to feel pity or sorrow for the other person's misfortune.
2. Sympathy can tempt one to simply commiserate.
3. Biblical involvement involves sympathy, however it is much more than sympathy.



# Involvement is not merely Empathy

1. Empathy enables one to see through the lens of the other's life-experience and feel their pain.
2. Empathy identifies with and understands another's situation, feelings, etc. and goes beyond sympathy and projects oneself into the other person's painful experience.
3. Empathy is subjective and can be passive.
4. It is possible to have sympathy and empathy, yet never move to help bear the burden.



# Involvement Moves beyond Empathy

1. Empathy can make allowances for sins and can allow problems to continue and persist.
2. Empathy can lead to commiserating [co-miserable] with the sufferer, while failing to encourage personal reflection and a God-ward focus.
3. Biblical involvement is to move into the problem to help the other person view their circumstance from a biblical perspective, and help them respond in a way that fosters personal growth and sanctification.
4. Bear one another's burdens...Gal. 6:1-2
5. Do all to the glory of God...1 Cor. 10:31

# Involvement Begins with Love

1. We love because he first loved us. (1 Jn.4:19)
2. Faith working through love (Gal. 5:5-6)
3. For the love of Christ controls us, (2 Cor. 5:14)
4. Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct *our way to you*, and may the Lord make you *increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you*, so that *he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness* before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus *with all his saints*.  
(1 Thess. 3:11-13)
5. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (Rom. 12:10)

# Jesus' Involvement – Love, Compassion, Sacrifice

1. Seeing the people, *He felt compassion for them*, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. (Matt. 9:36)
2. He took our illnesses and bore our diseases. (Mt. 8:17)
3. Acquainted with grief (Ps. 139:1-3)
4. Bore our grief (Is. 53:3-4)
5. And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, (Lu.19:41)
6. Jesus wept. (Jn. 11:35)



# John's Involvement – Compassion and Love

1. By this we know love, that He laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

(1 Jn. 3:16-18)

2. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (3 Jn. 4)

# Paul's Involvement – Compassion and Commitment

1. ... I [Paul] did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house (Acts 20:20)
2. ...I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27)
3. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. (Acts 20:31)
4. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? (2 Cor. 11:28-29)

# Paul's Call to Involvement...

## Be "Conduits of Comfort"

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. (2 Cor. 1:3-7)

# Paul's Call to Involvement...

## Be “Conduits of Comfort” (continued)

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

(2 Cor. 1:8-11)

# Essential Elements in Gaining Involvement

1. **Be Willing and Available.....like Christ**
2. Ministry is rarely convenient.
3. Ministry is messy.
4. What happens teaches – the way you **do ministry** demonstrates as much or more about your beliefs about the Gospel **than what you say.**
5. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

# Essential Elements for Gaining Involvement (continued)

1. Demonstrating YOUR faith in the power of God and the GOSPEL.
2. Progressive, “sanctified drafting”

NAAMAN'S  
LITTLE MAID  
(2 Ki. 5:3)



# First Impressions

1. Gaining involvement in the 1<sup>st</sup> session is vital to motivate the counselee to come back.
2. You may be filled with love and compassion, but without involvement, nothing develops.
3. A poor start creates an uphill struggle as the relationship continues.



# Conduits of Comfort – Dynamics of Intimate Communication

1. Be honest, about yourself, BUT be discrete; admit your own weaknesses and limitations.
2. Don't make visits about you! "All she talked about was her own experiences...she never asked me about me!"
3. ***"You're just a beggar showing another beggar where to find the Bread."***



# Be Honest about Your Agenda

1. And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. (Jn. 6:65-66)
2. You’re after their **mind** – their interpretations of their world.
3. You’re after their **attitudes** – towards their circumstances and the Sovereign God who orchestrated them.
4. You’re after their **will** – their volitional choices.
5. You’re after their **emotions** - acknowledging their presence & impact without allowing emotions to “drive” responses.

# Do Not Promise Total Confidentiality

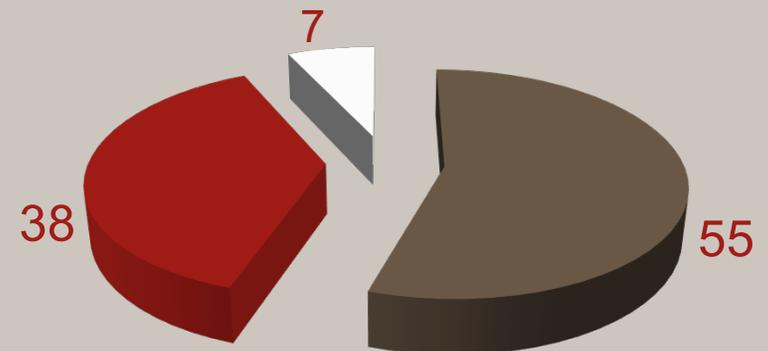
What do you do if someone says, “I need to tell you something, but you must promise never to tell anyone.”?

1. What if it's illegal? (Rom. 13:1-5)
2. What if they're a threat to others? (Ps. 82:4)
3. What if they're a threat to themselves? (Phil. 2:4)
4. What if they refuse to repent and change?  
(Matt. 18:15-18)

Confidentiality should be a mutual understanding. It's wise to ask your counselee to respect you as he/she communicates about the counseling relationship; ask to be respected and represented accurately and with grace.

# Non-verbal Communication

1. Time, timing and tone of voice
2. Space, environments, noises
3. Smells, e.g. body odor, perfume, candles, food
4. Posture, touch, positioning, gestures, movements, eye contact, facial expressions
5. Clothing, physical appearance
6. The following breakdown of communication types is often quoted, but out of context & can be misleading
  - 55% - body language
  - 38% - tone of voice
  - 7% - words



# Show Respect - Be Gentle, Patient and Kind

1. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. (2 Tim. 2:24-25)
2. To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is! (Pr.15:23)
3. A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures [settings - ESV] of silver. KJV (Pr. 25:11)

# Show Respect – Be Gracious

1. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. (Col. 4:6)
2. And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”  
**Disheartened by the saying**, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.  
(Mark 10:21-22)

# Show Respect - Be Forgiving

1. “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”  
Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. (Matt. 18:21-22)
2. See also Romans 12:17-21

# Take People Seriously

1. Don't minimize their perspectives, emotions.

***“I am a terrible person.”***

***“I am a failure as a mom.”***

***“I'm a worthless idiot.”***

2. Love ... believes all things... (1 Cor. 13:7)

3. Welcome input – cultivate a learner's spirit

“God has sovereignly brought us together for mutual growth and benefit. I can/will grow and learn as much or more from you as you will from me.”

# Be Wise – Define Needs Biblically

1. Pursue biblical needs, vs. what they want.
2. Martha wanted Jesus to change Mary; Jesus used Mary to change Martha.
3. Disciples wanted a KING - Jesus went to Calvary.
4. The Rich Ruler wanted approval, Jesus gave him an assignment.
5. Maximize God - Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! (Ps. 34:3)

# Be Wise, Don't React to...

1. The angry person (Pr. 15:18; Gal. 6:1)
2. The fool (Pr. 26:4-5)
3. The manipulator (Lu. 20:19-26)
4. The prejudiced person (“I’ve heard that you...”)
5. Rejection – don’t take it personally (Lu. 18:18-23)
6. Slander/gossip – (Matt. 5:11)
7. To this you have been called...because your Savior suffered...for you (1 Pet. 2:21)

# Show Respect – Talk about the People in the Room

1. The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.  
(Pr. 18:17)
2. Speak about the person's biblical responsibilities (you'll get to the other person as time and circumstances allow, as time goes on, and meekness grows in their hearts.), **BE CAREFUL!**
3. See Mack's comment on Adams' Casebook.

# Show Respect - Prevent Gossip

1. Gossip is talking about someone when you are neither part of the problem nor part of the solution.
2. Gossip is talking about another person with no intention of doing anything different about the relationship being discussed.
3. Gossip is sharing truths about someone that will tarnish their reputation.
4. Gossip is revealing negative information about another person with no intention to help change the ungodly behavior/relationship.
5. Slander is saying something bad about another person that is not true.

# Show Respect – Prevent Gossip

Gossip destroys.

1. Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
and those who love it will eat its fruits.  
(Pr. 18:21)
1. The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body. (Pr. 18:8)
2. ... a whisperer separates close friends.  
(Pr. 16:28)
3. Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.  
(Pr. 17:9)

# Show Respect - Defend Biblically

1. Don't allow gossip or slander [a malicious, false, and defamatory statement or report: a slander against another's good name.].
2. The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool. (Pr. 10:18)
3. e.g. - Jesus' disciples eating grain on the Sabbath. (Matt. 12:1-7)

# Involvement Enables Effective, Biblical Confrontation

1. And we **urge you**, brothers, **admonish** the idle, **encourage** the fainthearted, **help** the weak, **be patient...** (1 Th. 5:14)
2. I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and **able to instruct one another.** (Rom. 15:14)
3. Confront directly, but in love & wisdom.
4. e.g. Esther & Haman; Nathan & David; Naaman & the Little Maid; Naaman & his servants)

# Conclusion – You are an Ambassador

1. ... the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but *only what he sees the Father doing*. For whatever the Father does, *that the Son does likewise*. (Jn. 5:19)
2. “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because *I seek not my own will* but the will of him who sent me. (Jn. 5:30)
3. I do nothing on my own authority, but *speak just as the Father taught me*. For I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” (Jn. 8:28-29)
4. *Speak for Christ* – Don’t ramble; don’t focus on yourself, your experiences, or your “common sense.” (Eph. 4:29)
5. Trite answers cheapen the Gospel message and impact, e.g. Job’s friends. (Deut. 29:29)

# Ambassadors Do What it Takes

1. Offer tangible Assistance. (1 Jn.3:17;Ez.16:49)
2. Offer money (with wisdom and parameters).
3. Offer childcare.
4. Offer financial coaching.
5. Offer transportation.
6. Offer books, recipes, teaching materials, used items.
7. Offer housing, household help, cleaning, maintenance, meals, etc.
8. My Sister's House; Esther House; Victory Acres

# Man's Way

- Freud – Scientist/Expert - dealing w/subconscious
- Skinner – Impersonal – clinician's personal involvement taints the process
- Rogers – Client-centered facilitator, self-esteem-based
- Maslow – Man is basically good, goal is self-actualization
- Professional - tends to be more distant, impersonal, seeks to improve unpleasant experiences, helps to cope with life's difficulties, doesn't pursue the goal of life