



SHEPHERDING THE HEART

Key Definition: Spiritual Disciplines

A discipline is an activity in our power which we pursue – with the help of the Holy Spirit – in order to become able to do what we cannot do by direct effort. These disciplines are consistently exercised practices which draw us closer to God and bring new meaning to our time with Him, helping us to become godlier in character and behavior.

By “changing hearts” God is “changing lives” - your own and those you serve.
A model of growth and ministry: “Love – Know – Speak – Do”

1. Three Questions Everyone asks:

- Why do people do the things they do?
- How does lasting change take place?
- How can I be an instrument of change in the life of another?

2. What Rules the Heart Will Shape and Direct Behavior

- Ezekiel 14:1-5
- The heart is the target
- The roots of the tree equal the heart
- Avoid “fruit stapling”
- The way God changes us is to recapture our hearts to serve Him alone.
- The Bible is like God’s great scalpel
- The matter of treasure

3. Understanding Your Heart Struggles

- James 4:1-10
- Fights and quarrels come from desires that are waging wars within our hearts
- The Steps in how desire takes control
 - Desire “I want”
 - Demand “I must”
 - Need “I will”
 - Expectation “You should”
 - Disappointment “You didn’t”
 - Punishment “Because you didn’t I will”
- James says change involves two things:
 - “Wash your hands” changes our behavior
 - “Purify your hearts” rids our hearts of idols
- God’s provision for the struggle:
 - We have been crucified with Christ
 - We have been given the Warrior Spirit

4. Following the Wonderful Counselor in a Personal Ministry

- Called to be ambassadors
- The work of an ambassador includes:
 - The message of the King---the what
 - The methods of the King---the how
 - The character of the King---the why
- Serving as an instrument of change (refer to diagram)

5. Love

- John 13:34
- Building relationships in which God's work will thrive
- God's relationship with us is loving and redemptive
 - Has a higher goal for our friendship
 - Wants our relationship to provide a context for His ongoing work
 - Need to build relationships that encourage and promote this work of change
- Salvation as our model (Justification and Adoption)
- Elements of a loving ministry relationship
 - Enter---the person's world
 - Incarnate---the love of Christ
 - Identify---with suffering
 - Accept---with agenda
- Fellow sufferers with Christ

6. Know

- Hebrews 4:14-16
- Getting to know people and discovering where change is needed
- Ask good questions and listen well
- Problem of assumptions
- Knowing a person Biblically
- Organizing the information
 - Situation
 - Responses
 - Thoughts
 - Motives

7. Speak

- Proverbs 20:5
- Speaking the truth in love
- Helping people to see themselves in the mirror of God's word
- Comfort and encourage people with the gospel
- Steps of confrontation
 - Consideration
 - Confession
 - Commitment
 - Change

8. Do

- Galatians 6:1-2
- Applying change to everyday life
- Biblical Agenda
 - Commands
 - Principals
 - Promises
 - Priorities
- Four Essentials
 - Establishing your personal ministry agenda
 - Clarifying responsibility
 - Instilling identity in Christ
 - Providing Accountability

Works Cited

Tripp, Paul David. *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands: People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Pub., 2002

Coleman, Robert Emerson. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Spire, 2010