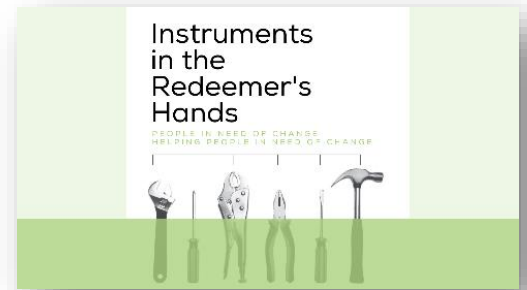


LOVE PART I: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN WHICH GOD'S WORK WILL THRIVE



INTRODUCTION

- Welcome, Prayer, and Review
- The ideal environment for growing healthy plants
- Now think about some of the features of a healthy, loving relationship. In what type of environment are you most likely to grow?
- Examples of healthy relationships: Ac. 4:32; 1 Thess. 2:5-12; Phil. 2:20; Ac. 20:18; Rom. 15:5-7.

CONCEPTS AND OBJECTIVES

- Concept: God always changes people in the context of relationships based on love.
- Personalized: I must build relationships in which love provides a context for God's work of change.
- Related to Others: Biblical love demands a higher agenda for my relationships than making myself and the other person happy.

GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- Figure 5-1. The Relational Foundation for Ministry: Salvation as our Model.
- 1 John 2:12-13.
 - Spiritual Growth is needed. (1 Cor. 13:11; 14:20; Eph. 4:14; Heb. 5:11-14)
 - Little children – Sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. New life and most basic needs met. An early bond between child and father.
 - Young Men – Have overcome the evil one. Ongoing growth, victory.
 - Fathers – You know him. Spiritual maturity and intimacy with Christ. The Greek word γινώσκω speaks of knowledge by observation and experience, not just information or reflection.
- Sanctification chart. From Dead in Sin, to Growing in Christ, to Eternally Glorified!
- "Sanctification is the process by which God actually makes us what he legally declared us to be in justification – holy" (Study Guide, p. 52)

FOUR ELEMENTS OF A LOVING RELATIONSHIP

- Enter the person's world
- Incarnate the love of Christ
- Identify with suffering
- Accept with agenda

WEEK 5 VIDEO: "BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN WHICH GOD'S WORK WILL THRIVE"

- Ephesians 4:1-3 and importance of healthy relationships
- "Entry gates" into personal ministry – see pp. 55-56
- Colossians 3:15-17 and what we need to "wear" in personal ministry to help others.
- Prepare to be sinned against!

TABLE DISCUSSION

- If you're comfortable, share which person or group you chose in Lesson Four to be your Personal Ministry Opportunity, and how you hope to be of help. Don't feel obligated to share all the details. But in your own reflection, the more specific you get, the more practical these lessons will become.
- Think together of some ways you can build more loving relationships with those around you.

HOMEWORK

- Complete the "Make It Real" Section in Lesson Five.
- Read Lesson Six Study Guide to prepare for next week's lesson.