



A Guide For Marriage Counseling

a resource from:



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Counseling and Family Services

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

I. GAIN INVOLVEMENT.

Seek to gain the person's trust and involvement by showing Christ-like love and concern.

A. Pray for the power of God in your life.

1. You must be sincerely concerned about their struggles. Some people will not tell you what you need to know until they sense that you care and are trustworthy. Until then, they may be guarded and might withhold the very information that they need to share to really be helped.

Proverbs 27:6, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."

2. Strive to step into "their world" and understand their experience and their view of their experience. Understanding how a person views their experience is a very important part of the helping process since we are most concerned with helping them change their hearts and minds to conform to the image of Christ.

Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee."

B. Pray for the power of God in their lives.

1. Christ's glory was revealed to His disciples through the power of prayer on the mount of transfiguration. Ask God to reveal His power and glory to those who come to you for help.
2. Pray specifically and concretely for each person.

C. Be compassionate.

Matthew 9:35-36, "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."

1. Jesus became one of us, took on the form of a servant and shared in the fellowship of our suffering.

Philippians 2:6-8, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

2. If you share in their sufferings, they will follow your lead as you point them to Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

D. Be gentle and humble.

Matthew 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

1. Jesus was very gentle with the woman at the well. His questions were designed to catch her interest. His gentleness led her to be open to Truth. The longest conversation of Jesus recorded in Scripture is with a sinful, Samaritan woman (*John 4*). Here is the God of the Universe making an appointment (*John 4:4* says, "And he must needs go through Samaria.") with perhaps the lowest person in the eyes of a Hebrew.
2. Remember that we are just as needy as the person to whom we are called to minister.

Galatians 6:1-2, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

E. Give respect.

1. Take each person seriously. If their problem seems big to them and you take them seriously, you communicate respect.
2. Maintain confidentiality.
 - a. Guard their reputations as much as possible without disobeying God.
 - b. Don't grant unconditional confidentiality. If they don't respond biblically or if the law requires, you will need to involve others.

Matthew 18:16-17, "But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

II. CLARIFY INTENTIONS.

A. What are God's intentions and goals for this counseling relationship?

God's goals for all people are centered in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants all men and women to repent, be truly converted, and walk in a manner pleasing to Him as they are sanctified by the Word and the Holy Spirit. Because our God is sovereign, He can use the difficulties that we go through to bring us closer to Christ (*James 1:2-5*).

Colossians 1:28, "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:"

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

B. What are our goals as we seek to help those in need?

As servants of the Lord, His goals are our goals. Be careful not to be swayed by the couple's immediate desires and goals. Ask yourself, "How can I help this couple achieve God's goals for their lives?"

1. As an instrument of insight in the couple's life, seek to biblically interpret what you learn about the couple's relationship in order to help them see what God would have them see. Be aware that when two people are in conflict, their accounts of the same situations will often be shaded to protect themselves or even their reputation as a couple.

Proverbs 18:17, "He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him."

2. As a servant of the Lord, gently and humbly:
 - a. Share the saving and sanctifying Truth of God's Word (*Romans 1:16; John 17:17*).
 - b. Restore those overtaken in a fault, bearing their burdens and fulfilling the law of Christ (*Galatians 6:1-3*).
 - c. Strive to be a minister of reconciliation (*2 Corinthians 5:18-19*).
 - d. Warn and teach that every man may be presented "perfect in Christ Jesus" (*Colossians 1:28*).
3. Our long-term goal should be to teach and motivate them to do all that Jesus commands.

Matthew 28:20, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

C. What are the couple's goals?

People often have short-sighted goals of relieving pain, eliminating problems, or changing their spouse rather than pleasing God and becoming more like Christ. As the counseling process unfolds, use the information you gather to work through the following items with the couple.

1. Clarify the couple's goals for counseling.
 - a. If their primary goals are self-motivated, and not God's goals, we will not have the same agenda.
 - b. While goals of changing behavior and/or circumstances will be important, efforts will not be fruitful if the couple is not willing to look at their own heart-issues (*Matthew 23:27-28*). The heart is the source of thoughts and behaviors (*Matthew 15:19*). As *Proverbs 4:23* says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."
 - c. If each spouse's goal is to solely "fix" the other person, counseling efforts will fail to please God.

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

Matthew 7:1-5, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

2. Clarify and understand the couple's life-goals.
 - a. Who and what are they living for generally?
 - b. If their priorities are wrong and their hearts are not fully open to God, they will experience:
 - Hindered prayers (*Psalm 66:18; 1 Peter 3:7*).
 - Frustrating results in all their efforts (*Ezekiel 14:1-8*).
 - c. What are their deepest heart-motivations?
 - i. What is motivating their behaviors, responses, actions, etc.?
 - We do what we do because we want what we want (*James 1:13-14; 3:14; 4:5*).
 - Are there "wants" in their lives that have escalated to "needs" or "demands"?
 - Is there anything they want so badly that they are willing to sin to get it?
 - Is there anything that they want so badly that they are willing to sin when they don't get it?
 - ii. What are they thinking and believing about their situation? Thoughts and beliefs expose the heart of man (*Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:18-20*).
 - iii. Lasting, God-honoring change comes only with genuine heart-change. Successful counsel is directed at the heart (*Isaiah 29:13; Ezekiel 36:26*).
3. Clarify what they believe about God.
 - a. Do they believe that God is sovereign? Understanding and embracing the truth that God is in control is foundational to meekly living for Him. We cannot be meek towards God without fully embracing His sovereignty over our lives (*Daniel 4:35-37*).
 - b. Do they believe that God is Holy and cannot and will not do anything evil or bad to them (*Psalm 145:17*)? Many become discouraged because they lose sight of the fact that God is not evil and cannot do anything wrong. They may tend to blame God for allowing them to experience difficulties in their lives.
 - c. Do they believe that God is active in their lives? Many become discouraged because they lose sight of the fact that God is involved in their lives daily. Remind them that God IS with them in their problems, actively working for their good and for His glory (*Romans 8:28-29*). Help them to desire to get involved in what God wants to do in their trials and to then expect good results of what God will do.

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

- d. Do they believe that God is faithful and will never leave them nor forsake them (*Hebrews 13:5-8*)?
 - e. Do they believe that God works from an eternal perspective? Many become discouraged because they lose sight of the fact that God is working (using suffering) with an eternal perspective for HIS glory. Encourage them to stand under trials with the goal of pleasing God (*2 Corinthians 5:9-10*). Suffering and hardship is to be expected as a believer, even though it is hard to accept when the suffering comes at the hands of those from whom you expect love and support (*John 16:33*).
4. Clarify what they believe about God's Word.
- a. Do they believe that God's Word is the standard that defines appropriate thoughts, beliefs, attitudes, relationships, communication and conduct? Many are tempted to adopt worldly ways of thinking and responding, making false assumptions about what they deserve or the way "it should be." Examples include: "It's not fair," or, "I shouldn't have to put up with this."
 - b. Do they believe that God's Word will provide them with guidance for living in ways that will please God? Sometimes struggling people quickly turn to man's wisdom and forget to seek out counsel in God's Word. (*Hebrews 4:12-16*).

2 Timothy 3:15-17, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

5. What do they believe about their own hearts, wisdom and reasoning abilities?
6. Do they believe that they cannot understand their circumstances, discern their identity, or clarify their purpose and needs without the wisdom and direction of the Word of God as taught by the Holy Spirit (*1 Corinthians 1:27-31*)?

Jeremiah 17:5-9, "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

III. GATHER INFORMATION.

Proverbs 18:13, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

A. Seek details of a situation.

Keep gathering information by gently asking more pointed questions. Each visit provides an opportunity to gain more information. Pray for wisdom and discernment as you listen. Pose questions not only to provide

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

information but also to cause the person to stop and analyze what's going on in his/her own heart (see Jesus' example with the woman at the well in *John 4:7-26*).

B. Be careful of assumptions.

1. Ask for definitions for even basic words. Don't put your definitions into their words (e.g., the word "fight" could have many meanings.). Seek to learn more about what you already know.
2. Ask people to clarify what they mean with concrete, real-life examples of the terms they have used.
3. Ask people to explain why they responded the way they did in the examples they have given you.

C. Ask good, open-ended questions.

1. Answers to open-ended questions disclose thinking, desires, motives, and behavior.
2. Use a combination of "survey" and "laser" questions.
 - a. Survey questions scan the various areas of a person's life, looking at the person as a whole. For example, a husband may have a relationship problem with his wife which may also exist at work and in the church. It is not, therefore, an isolated problem.
 - b. Laser questions zero in and look intensively at one area of a person's life, revealing roots and causes.

D. Sample questions to expose the motives of the heart (*Matthew 6:19-21; Proverbs 23:7*).

1. What/whom do you love? Why?
2. What/whom do you hate? Why?
3. Complete the following sentences:
 - a. "If only I had . . ."
 - b. "If I could just . . ."
 - c. "I would be happy if . . ."
4. Where do you bank your hopes?
5. For what do you work the hardest to obtain?
6. What do you need that you don't have? What have you done to meet that need?
7. What three things are you most afraid of?

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

8. Whose performance matters most to you?
9. Whose affirmation do you most desire to have?
10. Who do you need to please the most in order to be happy?
11. What would bring you the greatest pleasure and delight?
12. What disappoints you?
13. What would bring you the most pain and misery?
14. How do you define success or victory? Why?
15. Have you ever experienced success or victory? If so, what have you done? If not, what have you done about it?
16. Is success (as you define it) ever attainable by anyone?
17. What are your dreams? What do you daydream about?
18. In what ways do you live for yourself?
19. Are you a slave to anything?
20. Where do you find your identity? How do you define who you are?
21. Do you manipulate people? If so, how? Why?
22. What do you do when you can't manipulate someone?
23. How are you selfish?
24. What do you believe is God's most significant "change-order" in your life right now?

E. Review your notes after each counseling visit, and assemble the information into the following four categories:

1. **SITUATION** – What was going on?
2. **THINKING** – What was the person **thinking** and **believing**?
3. **ACTION** – What was the person's response to the situation?
4. **REASON** – What motive was driving their behavior and responses?

Organizing the data helps us think biblically about their "story." Ask, "What themes, perspectives, promises, and commands of Scripture make sense of each person and speak to this situation?"

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

F. Emotions will be interwoven throughout all of the above categories.

While you are categorizing information, note any accompanying emotions. This helps focus future questions and counsel. Motivations, desires, and expectations can be indicated by emotions (or the lack of them).

IV. GIVE INSPIRATION.

One of the most important things to share with those seeking help is HOPE! This is especially true during beginning visits since God-honoring change is difficult if they lack hope. As *Proverbs 13:12* says, “*Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.*”

A. Gently show them that Christ has answers. He is our hope (2 Corinthians 1:3-10).

1 Timothy 1:1, “*Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope:*”

B. Share with confidence the hope we have through the patience and comfort that the Scriptures bring.

Romans 15:4, “*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience [endurance] and comfort [encouragement] of the scriptures might have hope.*”

1. Hope produces lasting joy (*Proverbs 10:28*).
2. Hope produces confidence (*Philippians 1:20*).
3. Hope produces greater faith and love (*Colossians 1:4-5*).
4. Hope produces personal purity (*1 John 3:3*).
5. Hope produces perseverance (*Romans 8:24-25, 28*).

C. True hope is based on the promises of God.

1. Hope comes from expectation of good. God is good and promises good in the life of each of His children. God promises that He is working all things for our good and for His glory, that we might “be conformed to the image of his Son:”

Romans 8:28-29, “*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*”

2. We are promised a crown of life after enduring temptation [trials].

James 1:12, “*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*”

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

D. True hope comes from focusing on the big picture.

Help the couple see their life “story” in the context of God’s eternal perspective. Help them develop a trust in God’s sovereignty in their circumstances (*Genesis 45:7; 50:20*).

E. True hope is found from seeking God’s Word daily.

Psalm 119:49, “Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope.”

2 Corinthians 4:16, “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”

V. PROVIDE INSTRUCTION.

A. What does God’s Word say about this situation?

1. As followers of Christ, we find all we need to be fed by the Word of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:3-4, “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

2. If we diligently seek for answers in God’s Word and seek wise counsel ourselves, we can accomplish God’s goals for those who seek help from us (*Matthew 7:7-8*).

B. How does God’s Word direct us to minister to this couple? (What method does God want us to apply?)

Use methods that are modeled as well as taught in Scripture.

1. Questions help others see with their own eyes and think about where they are in relation to God’s standards. They allow them to draw their own conclusions with the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

- “What were you hoping to accomplish?”
- “Did you get what you hoped for?”
- “Did your response please God?”

However, remember that overly pointed questions and statements can cause people to become defensive.

2. Use word pictures or illustrations (see the parable of the sower in *Matthew 13:3-23*).
3. Demonstrate. Much of the Old Testament demonstrates godly principles.

Romans 15:4, “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

- a. Forty years in the wilderness demonstrate that “man shall not live by bread alone.”

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

- b. Example: Speaking into an unplugged phone can demonstrate a disconnected relationship.

Psalm 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

4. Use stories. This engages a person's emotions and can generate desired responses (*2 Samuel 12:1-7*).
5. Give assignments (*Luke 10:37*).

C. What biblical principles does God want us to teach?

1. Teach them what God's Word says about:
 - a. Their problems.

1 Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

James 1:2-5, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Additional verses:

- All things work together for good (*Romans 8:28-29*).
- Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (*Romans 8:35-39*).
- We can expect persecution and affliction (*John 15:20, 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4*).
- Trials of faith can refine us and glorify God (*1 Peter 1:6-12*).

- b. God's view of their problems.

Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

- c. Their thinking and thinking habits.

Counseling with the intention of changing the way a person thinks and their habits of thinking is important. As it says in *Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:"*

Additional verses: *2 Corinthians 1:4-5; Philippians 4:2-9*.

- d. Their feelings.

The couple needs to study their feelings and the relationship between their feelings and resulting responses (*Hebrews 11; 12:1-9*). They are responsible to respond to God's Word and not their feelings.

- e. Their communication goals, habits and methods (*Ephesians 4:15-32*).

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

- f. Their intentions, plans and goals (*Psalms 19:7-14; 119:1-44; Deuteronomy 4:9*).
2. Teach them what God's Word says about their duties to love: They are to love regardless of how they view their spouse.
 - a. God (*Matthew 10:36-39; Deuteronomy 6:5*).
 - b. Wife (*Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33*).
 - c. Husband (*Titus 2:3-5; Ephesians 5:33*).
 - d. Brother/Sister (*1 John 2:9-11; 3:14-18; 4:20-21*).
 - e. One another (*John 13:34; Romans 12:9-10; 13:8-10*).
 - f. Neighbor (*Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37-39*).
 - g. Enemy (*Matthew 5:44*).
3. Teach the couple that the purpose of their marriage is not solely for their personal fulfillment. It is a covenant relationship designed to reflect the relationship between Christ and His Church to their world. They are to model Christ (husband) and the Church (wife) (*Ephesians 5:22-33*).
4. Begin teaching with the principle of self-examination.

Matthew 7:1-5, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

 - a. Hold each spouse accountable for their own thoughts and behavior, regardless of their spouse's.
 - b. Self-centeredness and inordinate self-esteem must be put away. At the same time, rejoicing and being thankful for the positive identity and worth we have found in Christ are very appropriate.
5. Teach them that they are a creature "made in the image of God" (*Genesis 1:27*). Therefore, they are to reflect God's character, attributes, and nature to everyone, beginning at home with their spouse. Christ exemplified the following:
 - a. Self-denial (*Philippians 2:6-8*).
 - b. Submission to those in authority (*Luke 20:25*).
 - i. Call the husband to submit to the authority of Scripture and the Body of Christ, the laws of the land, his employer, etc. (*1 Peter 3:7*).

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

- ii. Call the wife to submit to the authority of Scripture and the Body of Christ, her husband as it is fit in the Lord (if he is not following God, submission should be as much as possible without violating God's teachings), the laws of the land, her employer, etc. (*1 Peter 3:1-6*).

- c. Service to God and others in lieu of serving self.

Matthew 20:28, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

- d. Suffering in love, in the face of being unappreciated, unloved, ignored, etc.

1 Peter 2:21-25, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

- i. In *1 Peter 3:1*, the word *Likewise* is calling the wife to respond to suffering in the same way as Christ suffered as described in *1 Peter 2:21-25*. "*Likewise, [in the same way] ye wives . . .*"
- ii. In *1 Peter 3:7*, the word *Likewise* is calling the husband to respond to suffering in the same way as Christ suffered as described in *1 Peter 2:21-25*. "*Likewise, [in the same way] ye husbands . . .*"

- e. Sacrifice (*Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:25; John 15:13*).

6. Move slowly. Ask yourself, "How high should I make the first step with this couple?" Be sensitive to their understanding of themselves, God, the Bible, each other, their spiritual commitment, etc. Seek their commitment during the first visit to do the hard work that any God-honoring change requires.

VI. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION.

A. Lovingly help them implement biblical principles and not be hearers only (*James 1:22*).

Accountability is key here.

B. Formulate a specific plan for their specific problems and needs.

C. Give practical, concrete direction to implement the plan.

1. Give specific Bible passages for them to read, study, memorize, and meditate upon.
2. Give specific suggestions on how they can actively show love to each other.
3. Ask them to keep records of their devotional times together (subjects covered, principles learned, changes they are convicted to implement, etc.).

A Guide For Marriage Counseling

D. Help them to commit to the change process and to A.C.C.E.P.T. responsibility.

Acknowledge personal responsibility for thoughts and actions (*Matthew 7:1-5*).

Choose to look at circumstances in the past, present, and future from a biblical viewpoint (*Philippians 4:2-9*).

Commit to eliminate whatever hinders biblical change (*Hebrews 12:1, Ephesians 4:23*).

Exert energy towards the goal of pleasing God (*Philippians 2:12-14*).

Persevere in obedience (*Hebrews 10:36*).

Trust God for the strength and resources to change (*Philippians 2:12-13*).

E. Motivate them to go to work on their relationship for the glory of God (*Romans 11:36*).

F. Ask the couple for a commitment to meet regularly to provide accountability and further instruction as needed.

Lasting God-honoring change in a marriage can only take place as the Holy Spirit works through the Word of God to remove man-centered thinking and heart-idolatry. This thinking and idolatry need to be replaced with God-centered thinking, proper worship, and reverence for God and His Word. We are distinctly privileged to be an instrument of this change as we minister the Word of God. May God bless His work through His Word.

Psalm 19:7-11, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

Review of Christ-Like Ministry Keys

GAIN INVOLVEMENT:

- Gain trust and involvement by prayerfully showing that you care and love them.

CLARIFY INTENTIONS:

- What are God's goals? What are our goals? What are the individual's goals?

GATHER INFORMATION:

- Avoid assumptions, seek details. Listen and ask questions to expose motives of the heart.

GIVE INSPIRATION:

- Gently present the hope of Christ with confidence in the wisdom of the Word.

PROVIDE INSTRUCTION:

- Give instruction from God's Word trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit and prayer.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

- Provide practical, objective application and accountability for lasting change.

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