

# Engaging the Church

Elders' Wives August 2017

Apostolic Christian Counseling & Family Services  
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## Review from Bloomington Conference

You have been uniquely created, gifted, shaped, and molded by God.

You have:

**S – Spiritual Gifts** – given to you by God.

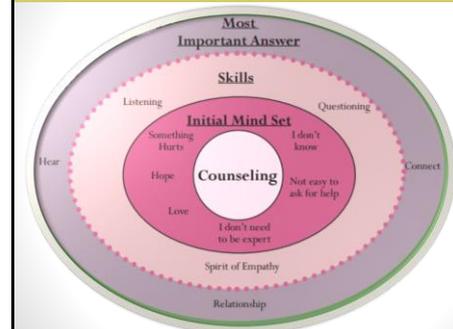
**H – Heart** – things you feel strongly about.

**A – Abilities** – natural talents you can use.

**P – Personality** – uniqueness in relating to others.

**E – Experiences** – give you perspective on life.

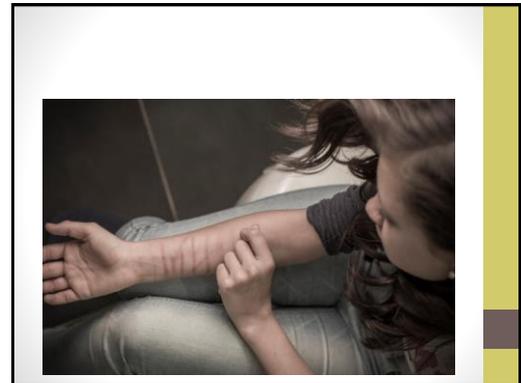
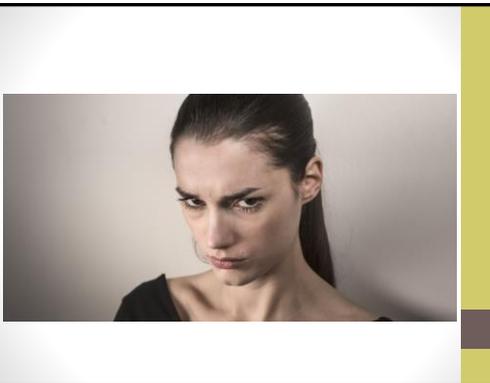
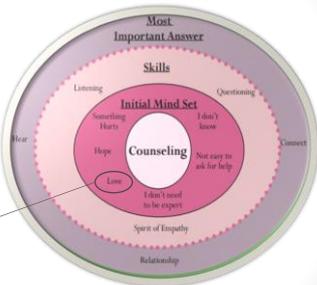
## Equip: Initial Mind Set



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### Love

- "And above all things, put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." Col 3:14
- Reflect Christ by being full of compassion for the hurting.
- How can I love ..... Today?





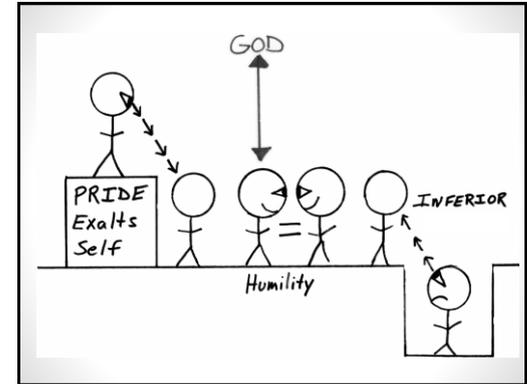
## Equip: Initial Mind Set

**I don't know their story.**

- This person is unique.
- Seek to know his or her story.
- I want to build trust.

**I don't need to have all the answers.**

- Discipleship doesn't require expertise in all matters of life.
- Showing love is more important than fixing or having answers.



## Equip: Initial Mind Set

**They are hurting.**

- Appreciate their pain.
- This generates compassion.

**Vulnerability is not easy.**

- Appreciate their openness.
- Support their courage.

## Equip: Initial Mind Set

**Leave them with Hope.**

- The fact they approached you is of itself very hopeful.
- Be careful not to downplay hurt.

## Equipping: Skills

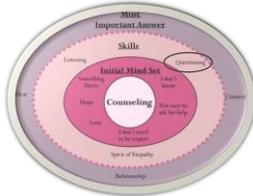
**Listening:**

- James 1:19 "...let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."
- How can I best prepare myself to listen? (sleep, body posture, eye contact and facial cues)
- Listen for more than words-tone and speed of language; what is not said.
- Summarize what you are hearing.
- Ministry of Presence.
- Remember it is an honor to listen - show respect and appreciation.

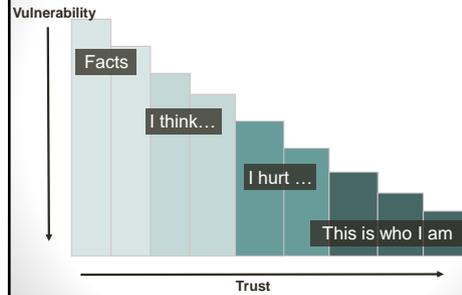
## Equipping: Skills

### Questioning:

- Used to gather information for you to understand.
- Barrier- Are we fearful of how they might answer?
- Ask- Will this question help my understanding or am I digging for details to feed my curiosity?
- Open vs. Closed-ended questions.



## Levels of Sharing



## Equipping: Skills

### Spirit of Empathy:

- Put yourself in the shoes of another person.
- Empathy vs. Sympathy or Empathy vs. Agreement
- Connect using emotions - we are all broken.
- Goal is for the individual to feel understood.
- *2 Cor. 1:3-4 "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."*

