

MINISTER WEBINAR

Dealing with Difficult Cases



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24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 2 Tim 2:24

What is a Difficult Case?

Examples:

- Couples/Individuals who refuse to change.
- A desire for marriage but it is not likely.
- Chronic time consumer.
- Wounded people who are wounding others.
- Mental health is a factor.
- Rigid personality types.
- Repenting without motion toward baptism.
- Person struggling with gender identity.
- You get pitted against the masses by someone who is "charmer."

Think about your own situations you find yourself in.

Personal Preparation: For Difficult Cases



- **Scope**
What are my limits?
- **Expectation**
What should my goals be?
- **Broken realities**
What should my mindset be?
- **Healthy self**
How do I know I'm staying healthy?
- **Love**
How do I continue to love as Jesus loves?

Engaging: For Difficult Cases

"Fixing" the issue

- Stages of Change
Where is this person at?
- Elevate
Do we need extra help?

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Cor 12:9

"Accepting" the issue

- Perspective
What shifts in focus could be helpful?
- Community
How do we help carry hard realities?
- Lament
Turn, complain, ask, trust



Assessing the Stage of Change

PROGRESS ↓



Precontemplation

- They think they don't need to.
- They don't want to.
- They don't think they can.

Contemplation

- They want to, yet don't act.
- External motivation.
- Considers the pros/cons of changing.

Preparation

- There is a commitment to act.
- Is asking "how?"
- Internal motivation is present.
- Person is willing to take a risk.

Action

- Active change is occurring.
- Active response to challenges.
- Willingness to learn new skills.

Maintenance

- Working to prevent relapse.
- Making progress.
- Re-evaluation and feedback

From Prochaska & DiClemente