

## The Way of the Lord

### 32. The Lordship of Jesus: Meeting the Needs of Others

In our last segment we cited a Christ-like interpersonal goal that's a driving motive for us personally: "As long as I live, I want you to experience the ever-increasing love of Christ *through me*." We want to discuss with you a practical and powerful way for you to help those close to you, especially "when it is in your power to act" (Proverbs 3:27). You can help them meet their *seven God-given needs*.

A major source of spiritual strongholds is when someone tries to meet one or more of these seven needs in ways that aren't God's will for them. But once they're free from demonic influence, you can help them *stay free*, so that they're hearing *only* the Spirit of Christ in them. And you can be our Lord's instrument to help them meet their God-given needs *HIS* way.

Each person has a need for **Dignity**. You support someone's dignity whenever you take the time and make the effort to love them, understand them, and accept them. You fan their hope in our Lord's faithfulness when they know that they're loved, understood and accepted. They can feel valued because the love our Lord has for them is being made real through you.

One of the best ways you can uphold someone's dignity is to ask him questions. If you really care about someone, you genuinely want to know their goals, values, and methods. People wrap strong feelings around these, and making an effort to understand them enhances that person's dignity. For most men, one of the strongest ways you can support his dignity is to *respect* him. And for women, our dignity is supported by love that's expressed through *genuine interest and appreciation*.

We have need for **Authority** in our lives, even though our rebellious sin nature wars against it. Authority is the responsibility to:

- *include* those people or things that contribute to peace and harmony in your home or fellowship family;
- *exclude* those people or things that rob your home or fellowship family of peace and harmony;
- *commend* those actions and attitudes that contribute to the peace and harmony of your home or fellowship family;
- *correct* those actions and attitudes that rob the peace and harmony of your home or fellowship family.

Authority is God's means to produce peace so that love will blossom in relationships. The Hebrew word for peace is *shalom*. The letters in *shalom* mean "authority that keeps chaos in check." It's hard for love to flourish when anxiety and fear exist in a relationship. And remember the Bible's warning: if you have trouble with authority, you have trouble with God (Romans 13:1-6).

Every person has a need for **Blessing and Provision**. When you meet people's material needs, you're also supporting their physical and emotional needs. When you *bless* someone, you're doing something for them that's unexpected or maybe even undeserved. When you meet their need for *provision*, whether food, clothing, shelter or transportation, you're being the heart and hands of our LORD, Who's the true Provider. Your actions to

bles and *provide* for someone show them how important they are to our Lord, and also demonstrate how valued they are to you as well. By putting their interests and needs first ahead of yours, they have all the more reason to *praise our Lord* for your kindness.

A *blessing* doesn't necessarily have to be a big thing! It can be as simple as a thoughtful word or a timely phone call. Keep in mind that when our Lord uses you to provide for someone's need, you're not only helping remove a source of apprehension for them. You're also allowing them to be assured that their heavenly Father truly sees and knows their need.

Each person has a need for **Security**. When things get tough, people need to know someone cares about them. *You* can be "Jesus with skin on" and come alongside to help them get through their trial with their trust in Jesus intact. Make sure that your heart is humble before our Lord when someone has need of Him through you. Your attitude should be that of Christ, undergirded by a love that puts them first. A Christlike attitude makes it easy for them to call on you in their time of need, even when it's inconvenient.

Meeting the security needs of another person can be as simple as a loving hug. Like blessing and provision, relational affirmation is an action that removes fear and anxiety. People know that our Lord may use you to encourage someone in relational security when they've seen your willing responsiveness to others. Jesus graciously responded even when the timing wasn't convenient for Him. Do *you*?

God put into every person a need for **Purpose & Meaning**. Everyone needs a reason to get up in the morning. And when someone is suffering, they may be asking why they should go on living. The best way you can help someone meet their need for purpose and meaning is threefold. Help them *establish goals* that are noble enough for our Lord to receive glory in their lives. Help them *establish values* so their character qualities reflect Jesus. And help them *establish Bible-based methods* that will reflect the wisdom that's gained as they apply God's Word to their way of doing things.

We each have a need for **Freedom and Boundary** in our life. Helping someone apply God's Word to their decisions and actions is the best way to help meet their need for Freedom & Boundary. So many of the commands in the Bible are *interpersonal*. They relate the good things you can do for others, and warn of the actions that harm a relationship.

It's essential that people who are in authority establish from the Scriptures the freedoms and boundaries our Lord has set in place for our good. Making sure everyone in your home or fellowship family knows these areas of freedom and boundary will build relational peace and undergird your ability to love each other. You can begin this process with your family. Ask everyone what robs your home of peace. Then go into God's Word together and establish principles that will bring peace.

The last need our Lord put into each person is for **Intimate Love and Companionship**. Not everyone is called to be married. But each of us has a need for someone with whom we can share deeply the things in our heart and spirit. Often it's the person with whom you share love and companionship who'll help meet your other six needs: dignity, authority, blessing and provision, security, purpose and meaning, and freedom and boundary.

If *you* are our Lord's instrument to meet any of these needs in others, make sure your heart motive aligns with *His*: to put them first and consider them more important than yourself. It's not so much what you do for others, but your love for them that will help them *experience the love of Jesus through you*. And this is the goal with which we began this segment: "As long as I live, I want you to experience the ever-increasing love of Christ through *me*." When *His* love shines through both what you say *and* do, you're walking the way of the Lord.

### **For Further Study**

- November 2000 Newsletter: *Clusters of Grapes For God's Glory*
- Discussing How To Restore The Early Church, Lesson 8: *Humility As You Serve Others*
- Discussing How To Restore The Early Church, Lesson 38: *7. Deference Produces Trust*

Each is a free download on our website: <[restorationministries.org](http://restorationministries.org)>