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GETTING BETTER AT LOVE

Give Them Honest Counsel

Message by Pastor Michael Vuorensivu
Cedar Grove Church | May 7, 2017

LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE



WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS

Getting to Know One Another

- Share a time when you felt like you needed to say something to a friend or family member that you knew was not going to go well. Explain how you felt before you had the conversation and how you did it.

GIVE THEM HONEST COUNSEL

Let's review how to Bring out the Best in Others:

1. Give others a **Personal Challenge**.
2. Give others **Complete Confidence** by giving affirmation that is:
 - a. **Real**
 - b. **Regular**
 - c. **Recognizable**
3. Give others the **Credit**.

And finally, an additional way to Bring Out the Best in Others is:

Give them **Honest Counsel**. We all need people who will be **honest with us**.

WHY Do We Correct Others?

People **learn** from one another, just as iron sharpens iron.
Proverbs 27:17 (GN)

An **honest answer** is the sign of a true friendship. Proverbs 24:26 (GN)

The difference between the right way and the wrong way to correct is **your attitude!**

... Speaking the truth **in love**... Ephesians 4:15

Love means giving the person **what they need** NOT **what they deserve**.

HOW To Correct Others?

The key to proper correction: You **affirm** the person, then **correct** the behavior. Remember we are building others up not tearing them down!

Do not let any **unwholesome talk** come out of your mouths...
Ephesians 4:29

WHEN To Correct?

Whenever possible correct the person, **right in the moment**. Identify the behaviour of concern and share the behaviour you were looking for.

WHERE To Correct?

Whenever possible correct **in private**. The intent is not to embarrass, it is to affirm the person and correct the behaviour. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

How are you at giving honest counsel ... truth in love?

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Please have everyone pair up to share and discuss these questions.

1. **How was counsel or correction** given in your family when you were growing up? Was it in front of everyone or was it done in private?
2. **Have you ever received** counsel you didn't want? Where were you when it was shared? What was said? How was it said? Did you feel affirmed, built up and loved by the counsel or torn down and condemned?
3. **How do you find** giving others your honest counsel?
 - Easy
 - Hard
 - I avoid it at all costs
 - I feel I am pretty good at it
 - It is important to me so I do it even if it is going to be hard



Leaders, once the paired discussion winds down ask the large group if anyone has ever received counsel they didn't want and how it went (question 2).

APPLICATION

STOP & PRAY | Close Out Conversation

Did God bring someone into your mind as you have been learning today about giving honest counsel?

If so, who? What would you say to this person *without using their real name*?

- **Get accountable and share** what you are going to do before your next Life Group meeting.



Close by praying for the group.

NOTES