

The power of community



The Power of community to transform

The porcupine challenge

Ask 3-5 people,
“How do you experience me?”



Matt 22:36-40

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'
38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Spiritual Maturity = Relational Maturity

Relational Maturity =

1. “Loving like Jesus does”
2. “handling people like Jesus would handle them”

Exercise:

- Do you know anyone you’d consider “relationally mature”?
- What about them makes you think that?

Common Characteristics:

A. They live a self examined life:

- Looking under the hood at your motives and areas you need to change, asking, “how am I coming across?”
- Taking on those areas and moving to change.

1 Cor 15:49 *Just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.*

Ps 26:2 *Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;*

Lam 3:40-41 *Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord. Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven.*

2 Cor 13:5 *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you.*

Common Characteristics:

A. They live a self examined life:

Yes, but how?

1. WWG -Invite God in: Lord, what is going on inside? Reveal to me my motives... examine my heart, “why did I react that way?” Be willing to hear, “you were defensive”. Repent when needed.
2. Ask trusted people: Prepare for whatever they say with duct tape over your mouth... “DO NOT DEFEND YOURSELF” Say “thank you” and take it to the Lord. Don’t dismiss because of the delivery.
3. Ask yourself regularly, “how might this person be experiencing me right now?”

Common Characteristics:

A. They live a self examined life:

B. They walk in humility:

- It means letting go of your position in their minds.
- It means not taking yourself too seriously.
- It means not needing to defend when questioned.

Yes but how?

1. Ask people how they experience you.
2. Remember that absolutely nothing that really matters can be done by you in your own strength.
3. Force yourself to apologize when you didn't treat someone in a Christlike manner.

Common Characteristics:

A. They live a self examined life:

B. They walk in humility:

C. They believe in people:

- It shows respect
- It sets people at ease with you
- It establishes mutuality in the relationship

Yes but how?

1. Remember God does. (you are dealing with an image bearer)
2. Invite God to show you who they are.
3. Project them into their glorified state.

Common Characteristics:

A. They live a self examined life:

B. They walk in humility:

C. They believe in people:

D. They **listen** more than they speak:

- Genuinely interested in what the other person is saying.
- Give feedback that you have been heard.

Yes but how?

1. Deliberately let go of your need to be heard and cared for and choose to give to them by listening.
2. Invite God to show you “what are they really saying?”
3. Avoid advice and focus on getting what they are saying and reflecting it back.

Common Characteristics:

- A. They live a self examined life:
- B. They walk in humility:
- C. They believe in people:
- D. They **listen** more than they speak:
- E. Honest, straight, thoughtful input:
 - Tell it straight
 - Tell it kind

Yes but how?

1. Ask permission “Can I share with you some observations?”
2. Take responsibility for your input.
3. Avoid motivating by using guilt or selling your input. Share it simply and let them feel the weight of it.

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