

Excellence in Ministry – Part 2

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I. Have four circles.

A. Personal circle.

1. Our spirit.
2. God is Spirit.
3. Born again. (Romans 8:16)

B. Rational circle.

1. Our mind.
2. God has a mind. (Philippians 2:5)

C. Volitional circle.

1. Our will.
2. God has a will.

D. Emotional circle.

1. Our feelings.
2. God has feelings.
 - a. Loves.
 - b. Hates sin.
 - c. Grieve Holy Spirit.

II. Made in image of God.

A. Soul.

1. Mind.
2. Will.
3. Emotions.

B. Spirit, soul and body complete. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

III. Basic needs.

- A. To be loved unconditionally.
- B. To feel of value or worthwhile.
- C. Biblical example of love and respect in marriage. (Ephesians 5)
 - 1. Women need for security or love.
 - 2. Men need to feel of value or significant.
- D. Definition of security or the need for love.
 - 1. Nothing can separate us from God's love. (Romans 8:35, 39)
 - 2. Christ died for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:8)
 - 3. Who can love us this way?
 - 4. This deep need can only be met in Christ alone.
- E. Definition of need for significance.
 - 1. Created for good works and are of value. (Philippians 1:21, Ephesians 2:10)
- F. Roles of women.
 - 1. Mother.
 - 2. Wife.
 - 3. Friend.
 - 4. Teacher.
- G. Not the position or status that gives us significance.
- H. Mid-life crisis with emptiness because we are not allowing God to meet our needs.

IV. Have full circles.

- A. Personal circle.
 - 1. Realize or believe that Jesus Christ meets all of our needs.
 - 2. Examples in Scripture.
 - a) The woman at the well. (John 4)
 - 1) Looked to relationships for love and value.

- 2) Jesus told her he was enough to meet all her needs.
 - b) Complete in Christ. (Colossians 2:10)
 - c) The Lord is my light. (Psalm 27:1)
 - d) God is for us. (Romans 8)
 - e) Our security is in Him. (Colossians 3:3)
3. We have a great heritage.
 - a) God is our Father.
 - b) Christ is our Savior.
 - c) We are his children.
4. Our security can be based on.
 - a) Our performance.
 - b) God's performance on our behalf.
 - 1) God is excited when we do something right.
 - 2) He knows we aren't perfect. (Psalm 1:45)

B. Rational circle.

1. Think the truth.
2. Examples.
 - a) Thy word is truth. (John 17:17)
 - 1) What does Jesus say about us?
 - 2) What does the Bible say about us?
 - b) Be renewed in our mind. (Romans 12:2)
 - c) Think on these things. (Philippians 4:8)
 - d) Mind is on God. (Isaiah 26:3)
 - e) As a man thinks so is he. (Proverbs 23:7)
 - f) What we think determines what we do. (Genesis 3)

1) What are we putting into our mind?

2) Be careful to buying into the world's system.

3. What is the truth?

a) We are loved.

b) God cares for us.

c) He knows the number of hairs on our head.

d) He is with us.

e) He is for us.

f) The world should grow dim.

g) Set our mind on things above not of earth. (Colossians 3:1-2)

4. Take every thought captive.

C. Volitional circle.

1. Realize everything we do is a choice.

2. We will what we will do.

3. Our will acts.

4. Examples:

a) David brings his will into play. (Psalm 101)

b) I have chosen. (Psalm 119:10, 30)

5. Realize our will in ministry.

a) I cannot say...

1) These people are running me crazy.

2) Demanding too much of me.

3) I can't keep up with all they are asking me to do.

4) The devil made me do it.

5) It is their fault.

b) Because everything I do is a choice.

- 1) I choose to let someone put me in a relationship that has requirements.
- 2) Make decisions on the basis of security in Christ.
- 3) Do not make decisions on the basis of approving people.

i. Jesus was rejected. (John 6:66)

c) Minister from the position of security in Christ.

- 1) Do not minister to get our need met or to feel good about it.

d) Point to God.

- 1) Do not become god in someone else's life.
- 2) Pray at the end of meeting with someone.
- 3) Freedom in Christ together.

6. Take responsibility for our choices.

D. Emotional circle.

1. Fully acknowledge your feelings to God.

- a) An unacknowledged emotion will control you.
- b) Pray.

1) David brings his feelings to God in prayer. (Psalm 109)

2. Acknowledge other people's feelings also.

3. Until we acknowledge our feelings we are not able to understand or think the truth.

4. David went to God when he was hurt. (Psalm 55)

- a) Where do you go when you are hurt?

5. Guidelines to share hurt or angry feelings with someone.

- a) Acknowledge feelings to God.
- b) Determine goal or motive for going to the person.
- c) Go to the person when your feelings are under control.
- d) Share feelings in the area of commitment to that person.

6. Get free.

a) He never allows the righteous to be shaken. (Psalm 55:22)

b) Jeremiah acknowledges feelings and remembers what is true. (Lamentations 3)

7. We cannot change our feelings.

a) Do not tell yourself that or anyone else.

b) Do not stuff them.

8. What you think and what you do determine how you feel.

a) Your feelings are a consequence of what you think and what you do.

b) Disarm you feelings by acknowledging them.

c) Look for the truth in the situation.

9. Guidelines for helping others.

a) Acknowledge their feelings.

b) Ask them if it is true.

10. Forgiveness.

a) Remembering a hurt does not mean you have not forgiven.

1) Forget those things that are behind and press on. (Philippians 3)