

Group Discussion
Leader's Journey
(afternoon group book reflection)
July 20, 2006

Basic message?

Page 33 talks of how we are emotionally wired together in family systems and our behavior and choices affect each other in ways we are often unaware.

We need to go thru personal transformation first before we can change others thru an understanding of family systems.

We can't change anybody outside of ourselves until we change ourselves.

We can't bring health to the system until we increase our own personal health.

The specific focus is to be a calming presence when there's nervous water and use it as an opportunity for growth.

There is a stressor in the system when we talk to others about an individuals rather than the individual themselves. We are triangulating.

One member of group talked of co-dependency with alcoholic families...triangulation is a problem when we talk to a person not involved.

Triangulation is a tool that illustrates anxiety in the system.

Lady in one of the churches represented by us is stressed by her infertility, but triangulates by talking gossip to third parties.

It's possible that a director will triangulate because no one is listening to him/her. An evidence of anxiety.

Stress in ministry can lead a pleaser to become a director at home and other places.

Do you agree?

We agree in the basic concepts of the book.

Application to Ministry

1. Helpful to pull ourselves away from the system to have an objective view of what is really taking place.

2. Then, seek guidance of what to do by the spiritual disciplines. We should work from the inside of our own heart to help the anxiety in the system by spiritual disciplines.

Understanding of family structures and spiritual disciplines are crucial for spiritual formation.

This come close to capturing the heart of leadership.

Being a calm leader in the midst of the storm.

In the middle of the storm Jesus was sleeping and the disciples were freaking out.

Culture: Styles of leadership are very much related to culture.

5 or 6 years ago Jon got a call from Kermit Netteburg—he'd been asked to serve as chair of the committee to give counsel to the GC president in relation to the world church.

There were a large number of people from the Global South who were pushing the GC to be more directive.

Jon stated that leadership differs a lot culturally and he thinks it's true—that leader has only spoken when careful consultation has been done behind the scenes at length.

Slept on the floor in the hut in N. Thailand—45 people there.

When the family makes a decision for Jesus Christ, don't come in and urge the teenage children to make a decision.

Let the community decide in a corporate way which is announced by the patriarch, but has broad and careful discussion with the entire discussion.

Don't be deceived by appearances...

Bottom line: the expectations of people is cultural.