

Considering Others - Lesson

Lesson summary: Make effort to think about others and find things to do for others, things that would be meaningful to them.

PHILIPPIANS 2:19-21 (NIV)

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. 20I have **no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare.** 21For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

Taking a genuine interest in the good of others

1. **Consider others as very valuable, and become greatly and genuinely interested in them**
 - a. Decide that you will like people in general
 - b. If you like people, even before you meet them, they will like you more often.
 - c. Let them know you are pleased to see them
2. **Think about what you can admire about people individually - their good points**
 - a. Find out what they think about things
 - b. Genuinely express admiration for their admirable qualities and don't speak of the negative ones.
 - c. We all have admirable qualities and weaknesses. Focus on the good, not the bad.
 - d. Express appreciation for the things they do that are good
 - e. Learn how to appreciate someone genuinely, spend more time thinking about their good points
3. **Think about what others want and need**
 - a. Be thoughtful, give things that you can give that would bless a person based on what they need or want without expecting anything in return
 - b. Be more interested in other's problems than you are your own.
 - c. Try to see things from the other person's point of view - deeply and thoroughly.
 - d. Express to them what you perceive to be their point of view and see if you are correct.
 - e. A person doesn't need to have a significant need in order for you to bless them with something thoughtful. Don't wait for needs, just get them something or do something for them that you know they would appreciate.
4. **Think about what motivates people**
 - a. Find out what they think about things
 - b. Become a student of people, and why they do what they do.
 - c. Be thankful for others, in your prayers thank God for them individually.
 - d. Love them like Jesus loves them.
5. **Think about what interests others and choose to take an interest in those things so you can talk with them about it**
 - a. You will never have any true friends trying to get people interested in you.
 - b. Learn to listen completely without interrupting or thinking about what you are going to say next.

These things require unselfishness, which is a difficult thing to achieve, but the more you think about others, the better you get at it.

The one who is little interested in others has the greatest difficulties in life, provides the greatest injuries to others. It is from such individuals that all human failures spring. - Adler