

Cultivating an Environment of Transformation
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August 9, 2008

1. It is very important to tend your personal spiritual development.
When challenged, ask:
 - a. "Why am I feeling the pain that I'm feeling? Am I concerned about the pain the other is feeling, or am I concerned mostly about the pain I am feeling in being challenged/attached?"
 - b. "Is my attitude loving?"
 - c. "Am I loving the one who is persecuting me?"
 - d. "Am I being selfish?"
 - e. "Are my motives pure?"
 - f. "Am I able to pray for this person?"
 - g. "Am I able to resist returning anger for anger?"
 - h. "Can I speak straightforwardly but lovingly?"
 - i. "Am I willing to acknowledge my contribution to a difficulty?"
 - j. "Am I willing to say, 'I'm sorry?'"

(Story of my journaling re. S and P)

2. Try to speak in such a way that a person can hear what is being said.
 - a. Do not attack.
 - b. Do not call the person names.
 - c. First listen; try to model openness to the ideas the other has.
 - d. Try to acknowledge that the other wants good.
 - e. Try to get back to common ground that both of you want.
 - f. Limit what you say if you believe the other person is not ready, and especially if you will have another time to speak.
 - g. Seek to acknowledge and live within whatever authority structure is in place. Try not to promise what is not possible. Do not speak for others.
 - h. Try to speak the truth in love.
 - i. Try to understand what the person believes to be the problem.
 - j. If the other person causes the situation to be awkward or difficult, then you may be more straightforward.
 - k. Pray for the person with grace and blessing, in his/her presence if possible.

(Story of M)

3. Have a high respect for authority.
 - a. Look to be respectful of the authority over you, and also under you.
 - b. Look for respectful behavior in the one/ones in conflict.

- c. Do not give up the authority that has been given to you.
- d. Do not apologize to appease another if there is no reason to apologize.

(The seriousness of Korah's rebellion)

- 4. Affirm Jesus' words that peacemakers are children of God, and James' words that those who sow in peace will experience the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

(Friendship with Kenn)