

Involvement

Getting to Know Your Counselee

1

The substance of the counsel given is of greatest importance, but the involvement of the counselor with his counselee is most frequently the packaging that makes his advice effective in helping people.

- DR. Wayne Mack

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2 Very Different Scenarios

See a **PROBLEM** attached to a person.

See a **PERSON** who has a problem.

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Overview of Content – 4 Components to Build Involvement.



DEVELOP
COMPASSION



GIVE RESPECT



BE SINCERE



DEVELOP
SOLUTIONS

4

Develop Compassion 

- Put yourself in the shoes of your counselee (Matthew 9:36 and Luke 7:13)
- Perceive them as brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Timothy 5:1-2)
- Remember your own sins and failures (Galatians 6:1-3)
- Suggestions to help cultivate compassion as a counselor:
 1. Verbally tell your counselees that you care for them (Philippians 1:8)
 2. Pray for them outside of counseling and with them during counseling (Colossians 4:12-13; Philippians 1:3-8)
 3. Rejoice and grieve with your counselees (Romans 12:15)
 4. Consider the words you use with them:
 - gentle, tender, and gracious words (Matthew 12:20, Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 15:23, Ephesians 4:29)
 5. Defend your counselees against accusers (Matthew 12:1-7)
 6. Forgive both in attitude and action when they sin against you (Matthew 18:21ff)
 7. Meet both spiritual and physical needs (James 2:14-17)

5

Give Respect 

- Use the correct verbal communication (2 Timothy 2:24-25)
- Use correct non-verbal communication: Solver
 - Square shoulders
 - Open stance
 - Leaning Slightly forward
 - Vocal quality
 - Eye Contact
 - Relational posture
- Take problems seriously
- Trust what the counselees says
- Express confidence in them
- Welcome CE input
- Maintain confidentiality

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Be Honest and Sincere 

- Be honest about your qualifications.
- Be honest about your weaknesses, sins, and struggles.
- Be honest about your goals and agendas.
- Be honest about your limitations as a counselor.
- Be honest about the role of the Holy Spirit and Scripture.
- Be honest about salvation and fruit of repentance.
- Be honest about change and progressive sanctification.

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Develop Solutions (ongoing involvement) 

Projecting a solution orientation means that in the course of establishing the relationship, the counselor identifies and faces (rather than avoiding or ignoring) the counselee's problem. The counselor also proposes a systematic plan for the counselee to deal concretely with his problem. By going through this process, the counselor builds involvement in the counselee's life. The counselor does so by giving him hope for a resolution of his problem and by recommending ways the problem can be overcome.

- Dr. Howard Eyrich and William Hines

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Develop Solutions (ongoing involvement) 

- Pay close attention to the NEEDS of the counselee. (1 Cor. 1:11)
- Identify the problem instead of ignoring the problem.
 - In humility, love, and sensitivity, outright identify the problem and be direct about, i.e. don't beat around the bush.
- Allow solutions TIME to develop.
 - Spend time gathering good data before seeking a solution.
 - Don't use a cookie-cutter approach.
- Allow the counselee to give input and feedback while developing solutions.

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The Importance of Involvement

For me the content of the counseling in many ways was secondary. Often it was who the counselor was that laid the foundation for whether I could trust, accept, and do what was presented during the counseling. Admittedly, though, the two cannot be separated. If the counseling is not adequate, then whoever the counselor is will not make a difference. But the one has had such an impact on me that I'd like to speak to the issue of the counselor first and probably most, but not to negate nor lessen the importance of the counseling...

