

## Activists: Loving God Through Confrontation

### Who Are We?

- “Activists serve a God of justice, ...their favorite Scripture is often the account of Jesus cleansing the temple. They define worship as standing against evil and calling sinners to repentance.
- Activists may adopt either social or evangelistic causes, but they find their home in the rough-and-tumble world of confrontation. They are energized more by interaction with others, even in conflict, than by being alone or in small groups.”
- “Activists...are spiritually nourished through the battle.”
- “The true activist lives for God and for His love alone.”

### Scriptural Examples of Connecting Through Activism

- Psa. 7; 68; 10; Pr. 24:11-12; Ezek. 33:1-20

### What Are Our Pitfalls?

- Activists tend to see the world and its issues in ‘black and white’
- The ‘shadow-side’ to this temperament shows itself in acerbic tactlessness, running roughshod over others, not waiting for God or seeking discernment.

### Suggestions for the Road:

1. Consider God’s faithfulness in the light of so much undone in the world. Consider His great patience. He is working even when we see no evidence of it. Don’t give up.
2. Ponder John 4:34
3. Seek to develop tact, gentleness, persuasiveness, true love for others. Seek a mentor.
4. Invest energy in: producing and transmitting literature; social reform; “marches”; prayer walks; food pantries; crisis pregnancy center. Be creative.
5. Thoroughly research any activity before joining it. Ask God for wisdom first. Seek counsel, confirmation and accountability.
6. Be careful that intervention doesn’t become accusation. Understand the difference between, “That’s wrong!” and “I don’t like that.”
7. Remember that everything you say must be truth. But you don’t have to say it just because it is true.
8. Consider carefully the outcomes you desire from your efforts.
9. Develop your ability for self-examination and contemplation of God.

## Caregivers: Loving God Through Loving Others

### Who Are We?

- “Caregivers serve God by serving others. They often claim to see Christ in the poor and needy, and their faith is built up by interacting with other people.
- Acts of mercy are a very practical way for them to show their love for God, but also to grow in their love for God.

## Scriptural Examples of Connecting Through Caregiving

Esther. 2:11; 4:1; 4:13-14; 8:7-8; Ezek. 16:49; Story of the Good Samaritan; I John 3:14,17; Phil. 2:4; Heb. 6:10; Jas. 1:27; I Pet. 4:9-10; Mt. 25:35-36; Jas. 1:27

## What Are Our Pitfalls?

- Caregiving as a temperament means we express our love to God by reaching out to others; it's the picture of a heart overflowing with love and spilling out onto those around us. Caregiving as a disease is actually an act of taking; it's an act of deception, loving others so that they will love or need us in return."

## Suggestions for the Road:

1. "Adopt" someone – a prisoner, neighborhood child or elderly person; Open your home to students, neighborhood kids
2. Help a friend through a crisis, counsel at a crisis pregnancy center
3. Work in the inner city, e.g. Mission Year (Bart Campolo)
4. Help someone battling substance abuse
5. Volunteer on a rescue squad, work in a soup kitchen

## Enthusiasts: Loving God with Mystery and Celebration

### Who Are We?

- "Excitement and mystery in worship is the spiritual lifeblood of enthusiasts.
- ...enthusiasts are inspired by joyful celebration... cheerleaders for God and the Christian life. Let them clap their hands, shout 'Amen!' and dance in their excitement, that's all they ask. ...They don't want to just know concepts, but to experience them, to feel them, and to be moved by them."
- "Enthusiasts enjoy a celebratory form of worship as well as many of the more supernatural forms of faith. ...like to let go and experience God on the precipice of excitement and awe."

## Scriptural Examples of Connecting Through Caregiving

I Chron. 13:8; 15:16; 16; II Chron. 29:26; Luke 19:37-40; Acts 16:25; Eph. 5:18-19; Acts 3:7; I Cor. 14:40; Acts 8:9-24;

## What Are Our Pitfalls?

- The necessity of maturity will probably lead virtually every enthusiast through (the) canyon of unanswered prayer, where expectancy runs dry and the only mystery seems to be where God is hiding.
- In the midst of a celebration it's easy to forget how fearful and awesome God is. Without reverence, however, celebration degenerates into shallow triviality.

