



Rationale of Why and How We Serve

Journal: What motivates you to care and serve others?

A good test to know if we are loving others well is what is said about us by them. While caring is part of love, it is not always love because it can come directly or indirectly from our own neediness. Have you ever been cared for by someone but not really loved as a result? Or have you ever cared for others simply because you had time on your hands? Or because you are lonely? Looking for identity in your caring?

Those are not bad reasons - but they may not produce the experience of love that the God intends the recipient to have. As we are His vessels looking to pour out His love, not just His care, we do need to check our motives and agenda. Love, on the other hand, has no agenda other than the well-being and wholeness of it's recipient.

We experience that life giving love when we understand the act of Jesus going to the cross for us - even before we were on this planet...the ultimate love! As we look to love and care well for our Clients - let's look to personify the love described by Paul; the love we experience from Father God, through Jesus Christ, by power of the Holy Spirit.

We Ask Permission to Care

A difference between the Center and other agencies is that we take the time to honor the Client by asking permission to care, by asking permission to share information and ideas, by asking permission to pray, by asking permission to call them later to see how they are doing. By taking the time to listen, by working to understand their circumstances and situation, by keeping our motives pure, we honor their agency and freedom. We do this as we spend time with them, asking if we may hug or touch. We look to make all our policies and procedures are



manipulation free. And we ask if we can share their photo, their babies' photo, their story. We understand that it is their story to share, not ours. We do this verbally. We do this in writing.

By doing all of this – we affirm each Client's autonomy. We can serve them out of relationship, not transaction, avoiding agendas. We are able to “see” them as they are but encourage them towards where they want to be and cheer them on as they grow. We are also treating them as the Holy Spirit does, setting a stage for them to be led towards grace and freedom, not works and law.

It starts when we answer the phone, meet them at the door, walk them through their initial appointment. It continues as long as they want to participate in our process. While it is important what we do, it is just as important how we do it and why we do it. Asking permission to care keeps us in good boundaries and then doing what we've said we will do keep the trust level high in our care.