

- ❑ According to the principle, if someone has a relational need, we can't just tell people to suck it in and be happy, but instead, we should give them what they need for their relational needs
- ❑ If we are fathering a natural son, or a spiritual son, and they come into conflict with us, most likely it's because we aren't changing our relationship role with them, and allowing them to mature to the next level
- ❑ The solution is to modify the relationship, and then the conflict will be resolved

CONCLUSION

1. Are we willing to learn how to live as sons, and willingly mature as children, disciples, servants and friends?
2. Are we willing to step up to the challenge of being a father or mother to others, for the sake of the next generation?

SONS FORMATION

2 – Applying The Sons-Fathers Circles

David Hibbert – November 7, 2004

1. Applying The Accumulative Nature Of The Circles

1 Peter 1:5, NIV – *“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.”*

- ❑ God's will for growth is always addition, not replacement
- ❑ We must add new skills, without losing the old

2. Applying The Progressive Nature Of The Circles

Philippians 1:25, NASB – *“Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith.”*

- ❑ You can't jump a step; every person must go through the entire process
- ❑ If they miss a step, it will eventually affect their abilities, their relationships, and their fruitfulness
- ❑ The area between circle one and two is most critical, because everyone flows out of identity and relational security

3. Applying The Equipping Nature Of The Circles

Romans 12:3, NIV – *“Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment ...”*

- ❑ We must learn how to evaluate where we are at spiritually
- ❑ Our needs drives will determine what we are lacking
- ❑ We need to discover and admit where we are at, what we need in order to move to the next circle, and then find the right person to be accountable to, and the right resources to embrace, so we can forward in our growth

4. Applying The Complimentary Nature Of The Circles

Hebrews 12:7-8, NIV – “Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined ... then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.”

Matthew 10:24-25, NIV – “A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.”

- a) For each son’s role, there is a complimentary or corresponding father’s role – ie. Child-father / student-teacher / servant-master
- b) Every son will be limited by the role that his father is fulfilling
- Once you have found out where you are, look at the next level of circles, and discover what type of person compliments what you need, and then seek out that person
- Don’t wait for someone to come to you, find someone who can give you what you need, and pull it out of them

5. Applying The Diagnostic Nature Of The Circles

Ephesians 4:29, NASB – “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace [benefit] to those who hear.”

- Use the circles as a self-help tool, to help you discover your “need for the moment”.
- If you need nurture, get some identity books, tapes, etc. (Neil Anderson, Jack Frost, Ed Piorek)
- If you need training, get some training books
- If you need to serve, get some good books on serving and submission
- If you need to partner, get some good books on team ministry and leadership

6. Applying The Parenting Nature Of The Circles

1 Corinthians 15:46, NASB – “However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.”

Ephesians 6:4, KJV – “And, fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

- Young child – needs a nurturing father
- Primary school – needs a teaching father
- High school – needs an empowering father
- University – needs a friend

- As a father, we must always be a nurturer
- But as our children grow, we must change the primary way we relate to them

- Where your spiritual son is at, will determine what you need to give them as a spiritual father

7. Applying The Restoring Nature Of The Circles

James 3:18, NASB – “And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

- We must know what seeds of peace to sow, in order to meet the need that has caused the conflict
- We need to give them what they need, according to their needs

James 2:15-16, NASB – “If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food [nurture, teaching, etc.], and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,’ and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body [heart, maturity], what use is that?”

- Most people come into conflict, because there is some unmet relational need in their lives