

This past weekend I was at our LCMC Northwest District Conference. There was a speaker that really stood out to me. His name was Duan Walker who was the Executive Director at Mid-Valley Fellowship that works with helping individuals obtain sexual and relational wholeness. He spoke at one of the workshops that gave a talk on how to minister and love LGBTQ people in love without compromise. He gave four steps to minister that I found very helpful, and I believe can be used in any scenario to reach those in our circle of influence that need Jesus. I will share them with you below.

1) Build a Bridge

We need to find common ground with those who have differing values and different spiritual beliefs. A strong relational bridge will give us voice into their lives.

2) Allow Christ's love to compel us closer

We must allow the love that Jesus has toward people to move us closer into their lives so we can reach them with true love and grace. Our goal is to lead them to Jesus with authenticity not intimidation.

3) Share Grace and Truth

We must never compromise the truth. Ever! But we need to remember that they are outside of the truth and we need to invite them in with grace. We cannot treat people who don't know any better than people who do know better. They are not Christ followers yet.

4) Remember that Love will cost us something

To truly love someone toward the truth of Jesus, we need to remember that it first cost Christ his life. Loving people and sharing the truth could cost us our comfort; our time; our reputation; our preferences and other such things.

I share these four thoughts for us to prayerfully consider those around us who God has called us to reach, but seems so difficult because they seem so far away from God. Let's prayerfully consider how we can apply these steps to our lives.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg