

# Ministering Christ To Hearts

Small Group Leaders Training Session  
10<sup>th</sup> November 2009

## Introduction

1 Corinthians 2:2; Ephesians 3:19

Paul ministers Christ to *Christians*

But he does not just repeat the word . . . Christ

Because he knows people are naturally inclined not to see Christ

People have a seeing problem

Christian leadership begins precisely here: helping people to see Christ

And it involves a three-fold progression

### I. The process of helping people see Christ

#### A. Identify a seeing problem (*stop for people . . . find their pain*)

Looking at wrong things . . . produces . . . emptiness of heart

#### B. Propose a seeing remedy (*point to Jesus*)

Looking at Christ . . . produces . . . fullness of heart

#### C. Acknowledge the resulting transformation (*pray*)

Looking at Christ . . . produces . . . transformed lives

### II. How to identify a seeing problem – *in theory*

#### A. Tell-tale signs

Pride/anger

Fear/anxiety/worry

Guilt

Inferiority/insecurity

Confusion/doubt

Addiction

Depression

C. Listening for the big omission

No Christ . . . alarm bells  
No Christ . . . no surprise

IV. How to identify a seeing problem – *in reality*

A. Care more about people than yourself

Life is too short . . . not to look for seeing problems  
Time is a failure . . . when matters of the heart are not explored  
Turn about . . . is caring play

B. Care is easy to identify

Care for another's sake . . . is starkly apparent  
Care for another's sake . . . is loving and confidential  
Care for another's sake . . . is not censorious

V. How to identify a seeing problem – case studies

*Seeing Jesus Christ – and his glory and his sovereignty and his love and his grace – overwhelms any fear or guilt or confusion or addiction or pride a person may be experiencing . . . because he or she will become taken up by what Christ promises . . . and . . . will suddenly be released from self-centered desires into the loving embrace of Christ . . . an embrace full of peace, freedom, and contentment*