

MODEL FOR MUTUAL INFLUENCE

1. Love & Accept

vs. Judging Others

As followers of Christ, we become a visual picture of God's love to those we come in contact with. We come to show His love as we care for people.

What does God's love look like?

What is our ultimate motive for caring, interacting and sharing our life?

Out of love we are able to resist our natural tendency to judge and change others. When we give **RESPECT** to another person as a genuine act of love it allows us to simply accept them as they are: unique creations of a loving God. **Our job is not to change people, but to love them.**

Once we change our focus from judging others to loving them, we are free from the need to change them and they are free from the pressure that comes from that expectation. *The scripture tells us to "Love one another" and also to "Accept one another."*

2. Listen & Learn

vs. Correcting Others

How we enter into new relationships within a cross-cultural setting is very important. We come to listen and learn, which begins with an intentional focus that moves our attention away from our own personal interests, values and faith. We must center our attention on another person's world in order to build **TRUST**.

How do they see life?

How do they see the world?

How do they see faith?

Our job is not to teach people, but to learn alongside them.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

3. Serve & Partner

vs. Directing Others

Servanthood is love acting in life's relationships. We serve others best by partnering with them, by recognizing what they have to contribute and how our collaboration will bring a better, longer-lasting result while maintaining the **DIGNITY** and sense of worth of all involved.

Our job is not to take care of people, but to serve in partnership with them.

"I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:4-5)

"As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you." (2 Corinthians 8:23)

Result: Mutual Change

vs. Forced Change

As we interact and demonstrate respect for people, the diversity of our lives creates opportunities for reciprocal learning, growth and life change. We have something to learn from everyone once we set aside our personal judgments and cultural prejudices, things we may have previously used to determine a person's worth.

Our job is not to change others, but to change ourselves.

The **EM Model for Mutual Influence** provides an approach to the important issues of establishing respect and trust when forging new cross-cultural relationships.

By understanding the importance of respect, trust and personal dignity, our hope is to avoid forced change and push toward an the influence of growth and change that is mutual among all people involved.

