

One areas of breakdown that has been identified is that: There is a disconnect between visitors/NC's & disciples. A gap between those within, and those without feeling connected.

Let's consider the steps from the Parking lot to the Sanctuary.

We have a BIG Parking lot= Distance (long walk) & Direction (Where do I go)

Entry: Starts with Medical Screening/Then Security is posted/Then more distance (finding where to go in big facility)

Finally they arrive to the sanctuary... but that's not the end of the journey... *Where do I sit? Where do my kids go?*

For us; Every step of the process is normal, we all know where to go. But **Visitors don't**.

So; **Q: How do we fix this?** We need people (Disciples, Couples, Families) to be the bridge between visitors & NC's

**Luke 2:52** *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

### **I MAKING CONTACT:**

A- The first practical step in this breakdown is people making contact with visitors & NC's

1. We need to think; Where should that happen? At the front doors!

2. We need people in position ready to receive the new person upon entry.

a. **Rom 15:7** *ESV Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.* Welcome people

B- The second thing we need to consider is WHO should be welcoming people?

1. PG: *Did a serious men years ago "My Church is Not Crazy" Church had an odd-bod welcoming every visitor.* **BAD**

2. This job isn't for everyone! This job shouldn't be accessible to everyone!

a. **Acts 16:7** *She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation."* Here is a woman with a serpent spirit, drawing attention to men of God, but it wasn't helpful.

3. There are people that will be harmful to your visitors & NC's-

a. Spiritually prideful people, disheveled people, rude people... because this will become the face of the church.

C- So; People making contact (Greeting) need to have some qualities at work in them-

1. Punctual: Good with time. Doing this would require you to be early. Ready to receive people as they enter.

2. Presentable: **Dan1:4** *"Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men," he said...* Presentable to serve.

3. Reputable: **Acts 6:3** *Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation.*

### **II BUILDING BRIDGES:**

A- Once you make contact with someone you have to be able to in a moment "Build a bridge" with them.

1. This means "Make a Connection" in a moment find a common ground with them.

a. Imagine there is a barrier between you and them... you need to build a social bridge that connects you to them.

i. Outreach yesterday: GBPackers, Tree Trunk, Pit Bull, Weather, Chess set, Entry Art... All of those built a bridge.

B- How do I build a bridge?

1. Confidence: We need to have a confidence in who we are. People look to confident people.

a. **2Tim1:1** *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus*

i. Paul had a confidence in who he was. His confidence came from his identity in Jesus Christ. (Not Pride)

b. Be someone people want to follow.

2. Awareness: You have to be aware of your surroundings. Be conscious of what is going on around you.

a. I went to dinner w a pioneer, he was asking about connecting w people- I told him be aware. Know what's going on around you... *I made connection with every employee we came in contact with during the course of our meal & visit.*

b. Be aware of how someone may need to be addressed. *The way I speak to intellectuals may differ from the way I speak to people from the hood.*

3. Practice: Building bridges is a skill! PEOPLE SKILLS... It takes practice.

a. I used to be good at winning people in TIME... Now I can build bridges quick. But that took practice.

### **III SUPERNATURAL DIMENSION:**

A- Everything I've talked about is simple people skills 101... But our text points out a supernatural dimension-

1. **Luke 2:52** *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

a. Jesus had Favor with people... & Favor with God... A supernatural dimension was at work!

2. We need there to be a supernatural dimension; Otherwise we're just salesmen.

a. We need there to be a dominion in winning people over.

i. That they be converted, locked in, getting into ministry!

3. **Acts 16:14** *ESV The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.* Here he is speaking, conversing, building bridges, but a supernatural power got to work- God caused her to pay attention.

a. **Acts 17:32** *But others said, "We will hear you again about this."* Paul builds a bridge through the "unknown God"

i. God got ahold of some of the listeners. That was a supernatural dimension.

4. We need to contend for this dominion with people, and we need to take practical steps in learning people skills.