



Safe or Unsafe: Which One Are You?

Midwest Conference on Missionary Care

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What is a safe relationship?

(Cloud/Townsend - Safe People)

- ❖ One that draws us closer to God (Matt. 22:37-38)
- ❖ One that draws us to others (Matt. 22:39)
- ❖ One that helps us become the real people God created us to be (Ephesians 2:10)



Describe a safe person?

(Cloud/Townsend - Safe People)

- ❖ A person who accepts me just like I am.
- ❖ A person who loves me no matter how I am being or what I do.
- ❖ A person who influence develops my ability to love and be responsible.
- ❖ Someone who creates love and good works within me.
- ❖ Someone who gives me the opportunity to grow.
- ❖ Someone I can myself around



Describe a safe person?

(Cloud/Townsend - Safe People)

- ❖ Someone who allows me to be on the outside what I am on the inside
- ❖ Someone whose life touches mine and leaves me better for it
- ❖ Someone who helps me to be like Christ
- ❖ Someone who helps me to love others more
- ❖ Someone whose life touches mine and leaves me better for it



Jesus - Our Great Example (John 1:14)

(Cloud/Townsend- Safe People)

- ❖ Dwelling - Someone's ability to connect with us. Safe people have the "incarnational qualities" of Jesus. (Presences)
- ❖ Grace - Means someone is on our side. Unmerited favor. Unconditional love and acceptance with no condemnation. No shame/No condemnation
- ❖ Truth - H.O.T. Honest, Open, Transparent; Being real with each other; Someone who will "tell the truth" with us.

Building Trust with Your Flock

- ❖ People thrive in an atmosphere of trust.
- ❖ Trust is built when we keep our commitments
- ❖ When people feel valued...trust is built.
- ❖ Trust is build through servant leadership
- ❖ Trust is the foundation to real teamwork.
- ❖ Vulnerability is key to trusting relationships.
- ❖ Interesting...that competency is also an aspect of building trust.
- ❖ Trust takes a long time to build...but can be destroyed in an “instant.”



Patrick Lencioni



#1: Absence of Trust

The fear of being vulnerable with team members prevents the building of trust within the team.

#2: Fear of Conflict

The desire to preserve artificial harmony stifles the occurrence of productive, ideological conflict.

#3: Lack of Commitment

The lack of clarity or buy-in prevents team members from making decisions they will stick to.

#4: Avoidance of Accountability

The need to avoid interpersonal discomfort prevents team members from holding one another accountable for their behaviors and performance.

#5: Inattention to Results

The pursuit of individual goals and personal status erodes the focus on collective success.

Think Flock

- ❖ Provision - What do your sheep need?
 - ❖ Get on their level
 - ❖ Feed your sheep
 - ❖ Gather the scattered
 - ❖ Restoration if needed
- ❖ Protection - What needs to be protected?
 - ❖ No sudden movement
 - ❖ Help identify the enemy and be alert
 - ❖ Rod & Staff
- ❖ Guidance - What kind of guidance?
 - ❖ Model for them...leaders go first
 - ❖ Be present
 - ❖ Working together



What is your church doing?

- ❖ Making it Practical
 - ❖ What are ways that your church is providing a safe place & safe people?
 - ❖ How are you building deeper relationships of trust with your flock?



Resources to consider

- ❖ Patrick Lencioni - The Five Dysfunctions of a Team; The Ideal Team Player; The Advantage (Good leadership material for building strong cohesive teams)
- ❖ Safe People - Cloud / Townsend
- ❖ Neal Pirolo - Serving as Senders; The Reentry Team
- ❖ Helping Your Missionaries Thrive - Harder & Foote
- ❖ While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks - Dr. Tim Laniak
- ❖ Healthy, Resilient, & Effective in Cross-Cultural Ministry - Gardner
- ❖ Tending Scattered Wool Blog - Scott Shaum - <https://tendingscatteredwool.com>