

The Engagement Project | Tour Seven | 11.14. 2021
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<https://www.deltackett.com/what-is-engagement-project>

Dr. Del Tackett is our Tour Guide through The Engagement Project. This Go Deeper is a Study Guide of key points and questions from Tour Seven. This includes both thoughts and questions presented by Dr. Del Tackett, as well as additional questions to go along with this Tour. The verses throughout the Study Guide are from Tour Seven to be used for group/family discussion and to have them easily accessible for continued study, reminders and producing fruit of your own.

The Vision: Engaging With Truth

“The Vision: Christian families committed to the shalom of our neighbors. We will build real relationships with those provisionally in our Jerusalem, through prayer and action, with grace and wisdom and truth, being attractively winsome, tearing down walls, building up trust, and doing the work of the Kingdom.” --Dr. Del Tackett

1 Peter 3:15

2 Timothy 2:24-26

Colossians 4:5-6

John 18:37

John 16:13

Ephesians 4:15

Why do we speak the truth to our neighbors? Dr. Del Tackett says we should be speaking truth for their true good, and speaking truth in love. Speak to them in a way that we speak to their true good; not to win or gain power and never under the guise of being a “faithful” witness.

If we **see** truth as the means to the end (abundant life) then it changes not only the way we “receive” truth, but also changes the way we “speak” truth.

If we speak from true agape love, we don't speak to merely “deliver” truth, but with a sacrificial zeal that seeks another's shalom.

- What does this mean?
- What does this look like in your life?
- Have you ever asked God “How do you want to use this truth in my life?”
- Have you ever asked God to be an agent in your life to cultivate life?

Dr. Del Tackett says “The purpose of truth is bound up in true agape love.” When we hear this we are either EXCITED with the tendency to speak truth often but without true agape love. Or we are FRIGHTENED by this with a tendency to not engage at all...or to “love” more than speaking truth.

- Which one are you?

For those excited, read **1 Corinthians 13:1**.

- How do we not become a noisy gong or clanging cymbal?

For those frightened, read **Ephesians 4:25 & Zechariah 8:16**.

- What is the hardest part for you? (Whether excited or frightened)
 - What frightens you?

Truth and true agape love need each other. Truth is spoken through grace and wisdom in the context of a deep significant relationship.

- What does it look like to engage with grace, wisdom and truth?

Discuss these questions that Dr. Del Tackett asked himself and his group.

- What if you had lived next to Dr. Rosaria Champagne?
- Do you really believe God can do this in you and through you?

Truth and true agape love drive us into real relationships. Speaking truth is most effective when in the context of a significant relationship. Dr. Del Tackett tells us in Dr. Rosaria Champagne Butterfield's book she says "Ken was wise to know that he could only speak truth as deep as our relationship could stand."

- Do you agree with these three statements? Why or why not?
- Have you ever experienced this?
 - Maybe a time you tried to speak truth to a friend or neighbor (coworker) but it was not received well. Or maybe you wanted to speak the truth but you knew (or felt) you weren't in a relationship where the truth would be well received.
- What did you do?
 - What happened with the relationship?

Evangelism

We need to know our role in evangelism and God's role in evangelism.

- What is our role?
- What is God's role?

2 Timothy 2:24-26 "24 A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. 25 Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. 26 Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants."

If our role is to love our neighbors with a steadfast sacrificial zeal that seeks their true good, we should seek a friendship with no agenda other than to love them. Evangelism is our hope--our longing for our friends and neighbors--but not our agenda. Agendas destroy relationships.

- Have you experienced an agenda destroy a relationship?
- How do we keep our desire from becoming our agenda?

Do the work of The Kingdom

Read **2 Corinthians 5:11-20**

- What if you decided to put a plaque on your home stating your home is an "Embassy of The Kingdom of Heaven: Ambassadors for Jesus Christ"?

The greatest commandment: Love God and Love your neighbor. **Matthew 22:37-40**

All commandments summed up in: Love your neighbor as yourself. **Romans 13:9, Galatians 5:14**

The "Royal Law": Love your neighbor as yourself. **James 2:8**

If this is the primary work of the Kingdom, then He has entrusted that Kingdom work to you and me...the common every-day Christian family.

- What is something you learned from Tour Seven?
- Do you feel like you need to change anything about the way you engage with truth?
- What will you begin implementing in your life and relationships with your neighbors?