
Putting the cookies on the bottom shelf

We add value by:

- A. Taking someone's ideas, feelings or actions seriously.
- B. Communicating the value of someone's ideas, feelings or actions to them.

We create meaning:

- A. It's a statement saying "What you did mattered."
- B. It's a statement that's *personal*. "That meant so much to me."
- C. It's a statement saying "You matter to me."

Making it simpler...

- Add the tag line: "That meant so much to me."
- Reminiscing.
- Gratitude.
- High-lighting.
- Assuming the best.
- Sharing out of desire, not "need"

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Adding Value, Creating Meaning Building a Relational Tool Box—part 4

July 4, 2021

Review our relationship series:

- Tool #1: Air pump. Build life-giving relationships.
- Tool #2: Stud finder. Creating understanding.
- Tool #3: Glue. Redeeming conflict.

Proverbs 15:28 The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

An example: Toddlers saying "Thank you."

Definitions

We add value by:

- A. Taking someone's ideas, feelings or actions seriously.
- B. Communicating the value of someone's ideas, feelings or actions back to them.

We create meaning with three components:

- A. It's a statement saying "What you did mattered."
 - B. It's a statement that is personal. "That meant so much to me."
 - C. It's a statement saying "You matter to me."
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Ways we torpedo relational value and meaning

Prov. 10:8 The **wise in heart** accept commands, but a **chattering fool** comes to ruin.

Prov. 9:8 Do not reprove a **scoffer** or he will hate you. Reprove a **wise man** and he will love you.

Prov. 12:18 **Reckless words** pierce like a sword, but the **tongue of the wise** brings healing.

Prov. 22:10 Drive out the **mockers**, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended.

Paul's example with Philemon

Philemon 1:8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do,⁹ yet **I appeal to you on the basis of love**. I then, as Paul--an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ --¹⁰ **I appeal to you** for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

- “Appeal” vs. demand.
- “Basis of love” vs. obligation.
- Affection: “I appeal to you for my son...”
- Win—win: “Useful both to you and to me.”

Philemon 1:12 I am sending him--who is my very heart--back to you.¹³ I would have **liked** to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel.¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your **consent**, so that any favor you do will be **spontaneous** and **not forced**.

- Speak out of desire, not demand. “I would have **liked**”
- Valuing the dignity of the other person—“without their consent”

- Open-handed; freedom.

Philemon 1:15 Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good--¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

- Maybe God is in this... the language of “This matters to God”
- Maybe God is in this for you as well
- Appeals to the highest motivations and aspirations

Philemon 1:17 So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, **charge it to me**.¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. **I will pay it back**--not to mention that you owe me your very self.

- Speaking as equals. “A partner”
- Willing to sacrifice for the higher good.
- Cognizant of our mutual **investment**.

Philemon 1:20 I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

- The language of desire—“I do wish...”
- The language of personal meaning. This would mean so much to me ...
- Believes the best and highest of his friend.