EFFECTIVE COMPASSION TRAINING

What is Effective Compassion?

Effective Compassion: Compassion means "to be with" the one who suffers, not necessarily eliminating all suffering. Effective compassion is an attempt at rescuing the concept of compassion from emotionalism, paternalism, and transactional systems of care (systems where exchange of goods is the main goal). Compassion must become a rational exercise that respects the person, seeks personcentered solutions, and avoids condescension and collectivization (the boxing of people into general categories).

Why Training?

People need knowledge of first principles. The duty to help our brethren in need isn't a minor concern. It follows straight from what Jesus tells us are the two greatest commandments. In Matthew 22:34-40, a religious figure asks Jesus which commandment is the greatest. Jesus replies,

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself".

For any follower of Jesus, then, that we should care for and help the poor is not the question. The question is, how to do it well?

Helps people to think carefully before acting. As Christian philosopher Etienne Gilson once



said, "Piety is no substitute for technique." What he meant is that having the right intentions, being oriented in the right way, doesn't take the place of doing things right. (James 2:14-17) Training based on sound principles brings people closer together around a same goal, a same commitment, a same calling. When people do that, they tend to become more engaged and more attentive at results—there is something beyond mere tasks because there is an ultimate cause.

The Piety Myth:

Focusing on our good intentions rather than the unintended consequences of our actions.

The knowledge that it is good to help others is not enough. A teammust form around a common vision. When team members understand well and embrace a set of basic principles they know who they are. This is the beginning of second-order change within organizations. The Effective Compassion Training helps teams come together to realize that type of change and begin the process of finding practical ways of doing their work more effectively on three philosophical foundations:

- 1. Subsidiarity
- 2. Sphere Sovereignty
- 3. Christian Personalism

Effective Compassion Training (ECT) is a one day exploration for leaders, staff, and volunteers of churches and non-profit organizations to gain an understanding of compassion that envisions a society that is fully involved in transforming the lives of the poor with a minimum of government intervention. It has as its focus the faithful presence and active participation of people of faith in the lives of the poor. Organizations that practice effective compassion are guided by a rational assessment of real needs, highlight the entrepreneurial vocation, and promote the attitude of servers as witnesses and subsidiary aides instead of the attitude of rescuer or savior. The training is interactive and geared toward a paradigm shift in fulfilling the previously unmet needs of the poor. It is divided into three sessions:

Part One: What is Poverty?

Part Two: The Principles of Effective Compassion

Based on three philosophical principles necessary to building a foundation that leads to effective

poverty-alleviation work:

- The Principle of Subsidiarity
- The Principle of Sphere Sovereignty
- The Principle of Limited Government

Part Three: The Integral Human Fulfillment Model

The model is based on these five important principles:

- Simplicity
- Practicality
- Meaningfulness
- Measurability
- Replicability



FVI will gratefully welcome church ministries and non-profit organizations that complete the training to join a network of Effective Compassion Training "graduates"—soon-to-be partners. A central goal in establishing this network is to assist you and other graduates to learn best practices and for all graduates to benefit from the successes of other ministries in implementing meaningful changes. The goal is to help each local church or organization become leaders and exemplars for other local ministries on how to effectively help the poor and have real impact in the local community.



Committed to individual liberty, human dignity & self-reliance

The Freedom & Virtue Institute strives to educate citizens on America's founding principles of limited government and individual freedom and to uphold the ideas of human dignity and personal responsibility that result from having free will. We bring opportunities into the local community for citizens to learn, discuss and implement our causes.

In pursuing our goals, the institute does not support/endorse any specific political party or candidates, but instead looks at the "big picture" and the role of government in our society. We believe human freedom and private initiative in local communities are the best instruments to create lasting positive change in our society.



Freedom & Virtue Institute

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Because good intentions are not enough



True compassion means not only feeling another's pain but also being moved to help relieve it.

-Daniel Goleman

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