

GUIDELINES FOR HOSPITAL VISITATION

I. Theological Foundation for Hospital Visitation Ministry

- Matthew 25:31-40
- Matthew 9:12-13
- Romans 12:15
- **James 1:27**

II. The Ministry of Visitation to the Sick

- The ministry of presence
the church is with you
- The ministry of healing
act of anointing

James 5:14-15 *is the sick as if you thinking it is b/c of sin
you do you yourself there (she think sin?)
addresses the way it you can...
The ministry of the Gospel
they are being tested - strengthen their faith
pray & then visit them "your faith has
healed you"*

Matt. 9:22.

III. UNDERSTANDING THE CONDITION OF THE SICK PERSON

- Emotional state**
Fear, Loneliness, Uncertainty, Anxiety concerning others,
Anger, Irritability growing out of anxiety and or pain,
Depression or despair, Boredom, Apathy, Sadness
- Physical state**
Physical pain. Nausea, Discomfort due to lack of mobility,
Weakness, Itching, Loss of limb, Thirst,
- Mental state**
Disorientation, Paranoid thoughts

IV. UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF BEFORE THE VISIT

- Awkward.
- Helpless.
- Relational handicap

V. THE VISIT

- Prepare yourself spiritually through prayer.
- Don't

Wear perfume or cologne

Smoke or wear clothes with the scent of smoke on them

Stand between the person and strong light

Stand of sit where the patient can't see you

Joke in an insensitive way (Joking is a way of covering up anxiety and/or awkwardness)

Talk about your own or other people's illnesses or problems (physical, emotional, or relational.)

Appear hurried

Take the patient's irritability personally

Give water, or medication to the patient without doctor's approval

c. Approaching the patient:

- First knock on the door and/or check with medical staff if this is an appropriate time to visit. Remember the hospital room is both the bedroom/bathroom/living room for the patient. If patient is asleep, try to wake him/her up by speaking softly.

- Once in the room identify yourself clearly, even with people that you know very well. Move next to the patient and greet him/her with a smile and a warm touch. Physical touch is extremely important in communicating love, care and it reassures the patient that he/she is not a 'leper.' Be careful when you touch the patient not to cause pain or discomfort (watch those tubes and IV's!)
- d. Ask an open ended question: Example, "How are you feeling?" or, "What is going on?"

e. Practice 'Reflective Listening' focusing on emotions.

f. Pray with the person. *reflect back the feeling - listen to emotions*

g. Minister the Word.

h. Ministering to people in a coma.

i. Offer tangible help. *touch them (especially the palm)*

j. Concluding the Visit.

don't seem hurried - but don't be staying from visit