

THE 4 IMPERATIVES

I had not heard from this young woman for years. The day after graduation she launched herself into a life that would later be littered with poor choices and heartbreak. After all those years with her, I simply felt like a failure. But then today I got an email from her: "Thank you—you have no idea how much my time with you changed my life." So, what made the difference for her? Here's what she said...

1 Active Listening—"You didn't just hear my words, but listened to my life. I always knew that you were safe. It always felt like I did most of the talking."

2 Never Give Up—"You challenged me to be more. When I fell down, you pointed me to Christ to pick me up."

You never thought I was a failure. You loved me when I was unlovable."

3 Transparency—"You didn't have all the answers. When you made mistakes you admitted them. You never pretended to be anything that you weren't."

4 Truth—"The hardest part was that you always pointed to the truth. You showed me how Christ wanted me to live. At the time I didn't want to hear it."

Tears well up as I realize the difference a few simple imperatives can make.