

MENTORING OR DISCIPLESHIP COMMITMENT

We will not help you stay and wallow in limbo.

We will not lie to you but will speak the truth in love, even when truth hurts what you believe or what others may have told you. Truth is not determined by what you or we “believe” but by what God, who is the Author of Truth, says.

We will help you grow, to become more productive, by your own definition and by God’s grace.

We will help you to become more autonomous, more loving of yourself.

We will not give you dreams or “fix you up”, simply because we can’t.

We cannot give you growth, or grow for you. You grow yourself by facing reality – grim as it may be at times.

We cannot take away your loneliness or pain, but God can.

We cannot sense your world for you, evaluate your goals, or tell you what is best for you in your world; you have your own world.

We cannot convince you of the crucial choice of choosing the scary uncertainty of growing over the safe misery of not growing.

We want to be with you and know you as a rich and growing friend, yet we cannot get close to you when you choose not to grow.

When we begin to care for you out of pity, when we begin to lose trust in you, then we are toxic, bad, and inhibiting for you and for us.

You must know that our help is conditional. We will be with you and hang in there with you as long as we continue to get even the slightest hints that you are trying to grow.

If you can accept all this, then perhaps we can help each other to become what God meant us to be, mature adults with childlike faith but leaving childishness to little children.

--Peter Erwin, adapted by Patrick and Penny Hession