

DIALOGUES *on private care*

November 1998

Private Care Creed

We believe that every person should have the right to establish and participate in an environment that promotes these core beliefs:

That all individuals should be treated with dignity and mutual respect.

That all persons should exercise their human rights of freedom of choice, the pursuit of material and spiritual happiness and the duty of personal responsibility.

That health-centered, caring methods and models should be promoted and practiced in lieu of disease-centered, curing methods and models only.

That voluntary, interdependent relationships should be created based on shared values.

In the freedom to create an environment conducive to improvement of the quality of life for all parties concerned.

That health is based on the freedom to develop healthy, interdependent relationships rather than dysfunctional, dependent and co-dependent relationships.

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Private Care = Love

By Dr. John Mashni, D.D.S.

In the past few years I have been asked by many colleagues what private care means to me. I have given many different answers. From Insurance-free, to freedom of choice, to caring. But as I have dealt with this in my mind, I have narrowed it to one word. Private Care = Love. Love for your patients and love for what you do.

I may be a famous person or a practicing dentist and display in my office many diplomas and degrees.

I may be considered an excellent teacher and a convincing speaker. But if I have no love, my words are worth no more than a noisy gong or a charging bull.

I may have the gifts of an outstanding clinician, making difficult diagnoses and understanding all of the mysteries of the human masticatory system and I may communicate well to my patients to enable them to make better lifestyle choices. But if I have no love I am nobody.

I may invest all my money to build the best facilities or purchase the best equipment. I may provide the best staff to treat my patients. I may devote all of my time to their care, even to the point of neglecting my family or myself. But if I have no love, it profits me nothing.

I may attend all the continuing education courses available, like Pankey, Dawson, Face, and The Center. But if I have not love, it profits me nothing.

Love is a natural medicine. It is natural and does not depress the immune system but enhances it.

Love can be combined with many remedies, it is an outstanding catalyst. Love relieves pain and maintains life at its best.

Love is tolerated by everyone, never causes allergic reactions or intolerance.

New techniques and procedures come and go. What was considered good yesterday may be useless today. What is considered good today may be worthless tomorrow. But love has passed the test of time. It will be effective always.

Love is the finest agent to create rapport between patients, relatives and friends. It will help us to act not as children, but as mature adults.

Love=Care=Trust

If you love your patient, in the sense that his or her well-being contributes to your own, you care. The patient knows you care. You probably could not hide it if you wanted to. The exchange of feelings inevitably leads to trust. And care and trust dissolve fear.

I can not love or care for someone if I do not know that person. This brings us back to the statement that Harold Worth would say, "we should 'never treat a stranger'".

Take the time to know your patients and in caring for them, you are able to love them as they are.

In my 24 years of practicing dentistry, the most rewarding experiences with patients and staff are the ones with whom I came to know-love-care for. These things are returned to me many times over. Is not this what life is all about?

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