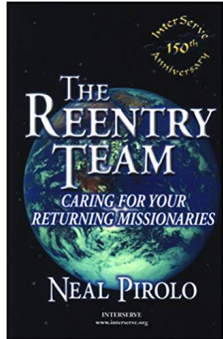




Neal Pirollo's Five Re-Entry Patterns



Become familiar with these re-entry patterns. Neal Pirollo's book, *The Reentry Team* (2000), explores five re-entry patterns to help every returning missionary understand themselves. A returning missionary can be in one of these patterns at a specific time and switch over to another, there is no particular order. These patterns can help you understand where a person may be after coming home. The ultimate goal is to reach integration. Review these patterns to be aware of where your client may be at and how to get them to integration. I have also included a chart to help in understanding these patterns and serve as a guide.

1. Alienation

After coming home you may begin to notice ways of living and thinking that you disagree with and find that others don't see things the way you do. Instead of talking with others you may want to avoid and withdraw. Instead of processing your feelings about these discrepancies you may continue to alienate yourself. This can have negative effects on your ability to process your trip as well as how you relate to others. Years may go by before you actually process your trip and miss opportunities to share your experience to help others.

2. Condemnation

As you can see many differences in culture and ways of living you can become negative about your home culture. Your desire to live differently may not be accepted by others and can cause you to be critical of others. Some may become judgmental and bring that attitude into community which could turn others away or cause you to burst in anger. It is important to process what you have experienced with others that will be willing to listen so you don't become bitter and angry.

3. Reversion

You may get so excited about returning that you jump right back into doing things whether it be volunteering or returning to your job. It doesn't feel like you are doing anything wrong but the lack of processing your trip can bring you right back to the person you were before. You may get so busy with life again that you skip processing your trip and truly trying to implement your experiences back at home. Setting time aside will be important in this pattern to prevent yourself from returning to your old ways of thinking and behaving.



4. The Ultimate Escape

If you have trouble sorting through your trip and don't know how to cope with being home it can lead to deterioration and brokenness in many areas of your life. This can lead to attempts at mental and emotional escape like bingeing TV, over-eating, drinking too much alcohol, excessive sleeping, or any behavior that serves as a distraction. These attempts at escape have the potential to lead down a path toward more serious escapes: addiction, severe depression and anxiety, or even suicide. Once returning you may need to get professional help. You may have cycled in the above three patterns but have not figured out how to cope with your experiences.

5. Integration

This pattern is the ultimate goal. It doesn't mean that re-entry was easy, by any means. But truly integrating takes time and work in sitting with Jesus and processing through your race. Being proactive will be a big step in getting to integration. By working through many of the steps in this course you may truly process and integrate your experience into your life. Take time and don't rush this process.

The following chart can be a quick way to remember the five areas as well as some insight on how to navigate each pattern!