

# The Management Skills of the Christian

By Doug Hamilton

## III. Managers of People

We now begin part 3 of the series on the Management Skills of the Christian. In the first two lessons we covered the *Managers of Time* and *Managers of Money* respectively. The Christian must be able to manage his or her calendar and checkbook if he or she will ever have the joy and success in the relationship with the Savior that God wants them to have. In this lesson we will cover the fact that the Christian must be a good *Manager of People* in order to progress in their relationship with God.

### A) Our Savior was a good manager of people.

Jesus took a ragtag group of fisherman, laborers and a tax gatherer and made them into the greatest mission team ever assembled. He sent them throughout the entire Empire preaching the gospel of salvation and by the end of the first century millions of souls had submitted to God.

#### He took the time to manage their education.

- He taught them with parables. -Matthew 13:35 *This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."*
- He taught them with scripture. -John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;"
- He taught them by example. -John 13:5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

#### He took the time to manage their activities.

- He took them on many adventures including mountain hiking, boating, river-crossings, valley retreats, foreign lands, country villages and big cities.
- While with Jesus the disciples were able to be involved with the most forgotten of society: the blind, the deaf and dumb, the crippled, the dying and the dead, the sick and the sickly, the hopeless and broken-hearted. Luke 4:17-19 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, <sup>18</sup> "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, <sup>19</sup> TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."
- They were also able to meet some of the most educated, the most influential and the most connected that the Jewish society had to offer.
- This was all done because of Jesus managed the activities of the disciples. It was through three years of those activities that helped stretch their perceptions, making them even more manageable.

#### He took the time to manage their spirituality.

- When they argued, He united them. -Luke 9:46-48 An argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest. <sup>47</sup> But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side, <sup>48</sup> and said to them, "Whoever

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receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great.”

- When they doubted, He reached out to them. -Matthew 14:30-31 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”
- When they feared, He encouraged them. -John 14:5-6 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?”<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Jesus demonstrated the “management of people” skills that have yet to be paralleled in history. He was the CEO of the disciples’ world and it showed.

### B) The Leaders of the congregation are to be good managers of people.

- Elders:
  - -1 Timothy 3:4-5 *He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity<sup>5</sup> (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),
  - Titus 1:6 *namely*, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.
- Deacons:
  - 1 Timothy 3:12 Deacons must be husbands of *only* one wife, *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households.
- Evangelists:
  - 1 Timothy 4:16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.
  - 2 Timothy 4:5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
- Teachers:
  - -2 Timothy 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
- If the leaders in the congregation are expected to be good managers of people, then should not the followers strive for the same?

### C) Sometimes we must manage to keep people out of our life.

- 1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”
- 2 Timothy 2:16 But avoid worldly *and* empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness,
- Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.
- Proverbs 12:26 One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

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- Proverbs 13:20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.
- There are only three things one can do with an unbeliever, convert them, become like them or leave them alone. If you don't have a plan on the table to convert them and you are not leaving them alone, then be prepared to become like them. That

## D) The Three Areas that we must focus on in Management of People.

Paul instructed manager of people skills in *Titus 2:15* *These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.* In that verse he identified three areas of focus for those that would like to develop “good manager of people” skills.

### The Management Skill of Teaching

- Where would we be in the life of the church if we did not provide a constant feeding of the word?
- Hebrews 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.
- 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, <sup>3</sup> for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?
- 1 Peter 2:1-3 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, <sup>2</sup> like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, <sup>3</sup> if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

### The Management Skill of Encouragement

- It is not enough to teach the facts and lay the foundation of logic, but also encouragement. The word “encourage” means to “put courage into” and was something that the first-century church thrived upon.
- Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, <sup>3</sup> so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.
- 1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

### The Management Skill of Discipline

- Managing people cannot be only education and encouragement, but also discipline.

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- Matthew 18:15-18 “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. <sup>16</sup> “But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. <sup>17</sup> “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> “Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.
- We seem to have forgotten the significance of discipline in the Lord’s church. Too many times nobody ever says anything at all while people become desensitized to the world and numb to Christ. How many of the people who have left the body of Christ might not have if someone would have said something?

Until we are excelling in all three areas, we are not really managing the people in our lives. Instruction, encouragement and discipline are the three areas of “good management of people” skills that God calls for us to be consistent in. When added to being good managers of time and money, we can more easily be the people of God that God is calling for us to be.