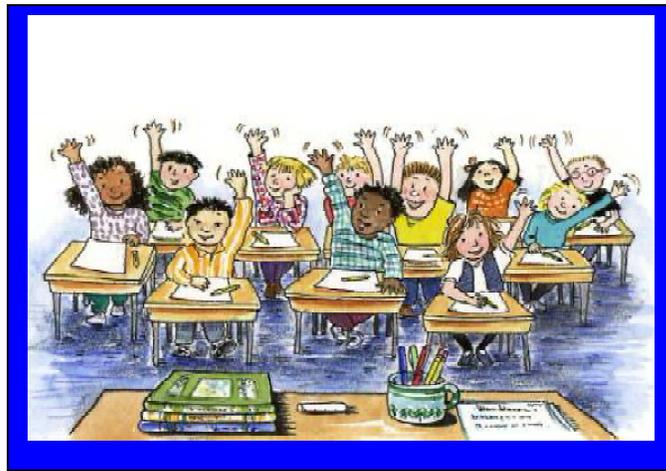


TRAINING FOR SERVICE SERIES

Training
Junior High Youth
For Service to God
#1



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2009

Lesson One

"Training In Benevolence"

"The Earlier you start to learn and train; the more effective you can be in your service to God!"

1. Do you know someone who started at an early age to practice playing the piano? _____
2. Did it make a difference by them starting early? _____

I started being trained by my parents even before I became a Christian.....and so have you—if your parents were concerned! We can gain knowledge on how to become a Christian and also gain knowledge on how to be an effective Christian—even before obeying the Gospel.

This **QUARTER**, we plan to emphasize the challenge of being trained for future service to God. We want to look into the various areas in which we can be trained to serve. Both boys and girls will study the first six weeks together. The class will then be divided; with the boys studying on how to be trained to assist in the Worship Assembly; and, the girls studying on how to be trained in areas where they can serve.

Areas of Service

Once we become a Christian, our lives have been turned over to God to do His bidding. What are the "main" areas of service in the church in which Christians can get involved? **Benevolence, Outreach, Teaching, Preaching, an Elder, a Deacon—or the wife of such.** We will be looking at the area of **Benevolence** in this lesson.

What is Benevolence?

Benevolence is to have a sympathy, compassion, or concern for those we know who are in need of physical sustenance for existence. Give a listing of the things that Jesus mentioned in **Matt. 25:37-40:**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Helping people in need may not be as easy as it might sound! "**The Welfare System**" in this country helped to supply people with some basic physical needs; but, it also may have helped to make them dependent upon the System rather than help to get them a job so they could supply their own needs!

Eph. 4:28 _____
1 Tim. 5:8 _____
2 Thess. 3:10 _____

Which would you rather have—a job to earn your living; or, a continual handout for years? _____

Who should we help?

Even though you may be young you can still show kindness, compassion, and concern for those who are in need. As a Christian, I have my responsibility to help others—but who does God say I should help?

1. Our own family, relations, home. "*Charity begins at home*" is valid! But it certainly must not end there.

1 Tim. 5:8 _____
Matt. 15:1-6 _____

2. Our brethren in the church. It is this showing of concern for one another that helps the world to see the sincerity of our claim to being children of God (Jn. 13:35). The Jewish people were warned continually about showing concern for the poor and needy among them! But so has the Christian also!

Jas. 1:27 _____
Gal. 6:10 _____
Rom. 12:13 _____

3. Our neighbor—friend or enemy! We are to do good to all men (Gal. 6:10) and that would include even our enemies. In fact, both the Old and New Testaments command this:

Prov. 25:21-22 _____

Rom. 12:20 _____

It is obvious that I cannot help everyone who has a need. How do I decide which ones to help and which ones not to help? With Television that can show people in need all over the world, how can I possibly be of help to all of these people? Even in our own "backyard" there is usually more people in need than I am in a position to help. What do I do?

If we have to make a choice, which ones do you think (from Scripture) God wants us to help first? _____

What does it mean that "*Each one shall bear his own load?*" (Gal. 6:2-5). _____

Collective Benevolence

There may be times when I cannot, as an individual, help the person that I know who is in need. We may be able to get a group of people together and help the person; or, it may need to be taken before the church so that the need can be met by a greater number.

1 Cor. 16:1-3 _____

2 Cor. 8:1-5 _____

Concluding Thoughts

Even though you may be young, you are not too young to learn to be a benevolent person. There are many ways that people need help—not just physical things alone. A visit, a smile, a card, an offer to be helpful can mean a lot to others—especially the elderly!

Lk. 14:13 _____

1 Jn. 3:16-18 _____

There is no end of the ways to be helpful or benevolent towards other people.
Use your imagination!

Tit. 3:8 _____

Matt. 5:13-16 _____

Questions for Discussion

1. What advantages do you see in being trained early to become and to be a faithful, productive Christian?

2. Why is Benevolence an important area to be involved in?

3. Whom do we visit in prison?

4. How do I determine when a need is real or faked?

5. Do you agree with this statement: *"Do not give a person a fish; train him how to fish!"*

6. To what extent can the church be obligated to help Christians in need?

7. What are some programs or activities that ladies of the church have engaged in (in the past) to help the needy?

8. Is a Benevolent person only obligated to help people in need with physical things?

9. What are some reasons why God wants His people to be Benevolent towards the needy?

Lesson Two

"Training in Outreach"

A second area of service that can be given by a young person is in reaching out to others with the "good news" about salvation in Christ. Unless you are "tongue-tied" or "too shy to speak out," you have the ability to tell others about Christ. If you do not feel that you are prepared right now to do so; then, why not get ready. That is what these lessons are all about—training for service to Jesus!

Jesus came to ***"seek and to save that which was lost!"*** (Lk. 19:10). If we are followers of Jesus, we will have the same purpose for our lives as well. Jesus commissioned His Apostles to ***"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature...."*** (Mk. 16:15). But Matthew's account added something that is very important. After teaching and baptizing a person, the Apostles were to ***"Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you."*** (Matt. 28:18-20). We have no greater task than this!

What is the Message to be Taught?

All we have to do is to read the New Testament and find what they taught.....and we will know what we are to teach.

- Acts 5:42 _____
- Acts 11:20 _____
- 1 Cor. 1:23 _____
- Acts 8:4 _____
- Acts 15:35 _____
- Rom. 10:8 _____
- Gal. 1:23 _____
- 1 Cor. 15:1 _____
- Acts 8:12 _____
- Acts 4:2 _____
- Acts 13:38 _____
- Acts 10:36; Eph. 2:17 _____
- Acts 14:15 _____

If you wanted to teach someone who already believed in God and in the Bible as the Word of God, you might take the approach taken by Peter in Acts 2.

If you wanted to teach someone who was idolatrous, you might take the approach taken by Paul in Acts 17:23-34.

With What Spirit is this Teaching to be Done?

How we proclaim the message of the Gospel does make a difference. The following passages of Scripture will show us exactly how we are to express this message to others.

Col. 1:28 _____

2 Tim. 4:2 _____

Gal. 1:6-8 _____

1 Cor. 2:1-5 _____

Eph. 4:29 _____

1 Pet. 3:15 _____

2 Tim. 2:24; 2 Cor. 6:4 _____

Acts 13:46; 14:3 _____

1 Thess. 2:4; Gal. 1:10 _____

Eph. 4:15 _____

When we show conviction and concern for others, there is always the possibility that they will listen. If you do not feel you are ready to teach them; then, bring them to one of the persons who you know can teach them. This work is definitely a cooperative effort by us all.

What you Believe does make a Difference!

1. If you believe that people are not lost outside of Christ, then you have no message to proclaim!
Eph. 2:12-13 _____

2. If you do not believe a person must believe the gospel, repent of their disobedient ways, openly confess Jesus as Lord, and to be baptized (immersed) in water for the forgiveness of sins—you do not really have a message to proclaim.
Acts 2:37-42; Rom. 10:9-10 _____

3. If you believe that one church is as good as another church, then you do not have a message to proclaim.
Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:2-22 _____

4. If you do not believe that the Bible is inspired of God and that it is able to perfectly furnish us to all good works, then you have no message to proclaim.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 _____

5. If you do not believe that God created all living things in this universe, then you do not have a message.

Gen. 1:1 _____

What one believes determines whether he has a message that is "good news" for mankind. Do you have a message to proclaim?

Concluding Thoughts

Christianity cannot be localized! When the Jewish Christians were content for it to stay in Jerusalem; Jesus brought persecution on them so that they would spread it world-wide (Acts 8:4). His instruction was to begin in Jerusalem; then into Judea; then into Samaria; and then to the uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 1:8)

We need to send out the best that we have that have been willing to be trained, prepared, spiritually mature, courageous, and a vision to seeing that the pure Gospel will be taught to the whole world in our life-time (Co. 1:23).

What greater service can we render to mankind than this?

Questions for Discussion

1. Did you believe that all baptized believers are given the command to evangelize the world?
2. What is the best way to learn what we are to teach others about Christ?
3. What does the phrase: "*Becoming all things to all men*" mean to you? (1 Cor. 9:12-13)
4. Does "bearing fruit" in John 15:1-8 have direct reference to converting people?
5. Can we use the phrase "witnessing for Christ" correctly today?
6. What does the expression "travailing for souls" mean to you?
7. What are "we" doing to get the gospel to the "whole world?"
8. Do we have training programs to develop workers to go out and teach the gospel to others?
9. Do you think the church is doing sufficient mission work?
10. Should the church have a good publicity program to let the community know what we stand for?

Lesson Three

"Training to Become a Teacher"

Christianity is a taught religion as well as a teaching religion! What we are saying is that:

- (a) A person has to be taught the Gospel in order to become a Christian; and
- (b) That same person will be taught continually as long as he is willing; and
- (c) That same person is called upon to go out and teacher others

the Word of God!

It should also be obvious that a person **is** what he is taught to be! A criminal is such because he was willing to be taught to be such. A Mohammedan is a Moslem because he was willing to be taught to be such. A Christian is such because of teaching. The entire world is lost without teaching.

Matt. 28:18-20 _____

2 Tim. 2:2 _____

The world is lost until they have been taught the "good news" and believed and ob eyed it! Man's eternal destiny depends upon what he is willing to be taught and become obedient unto. Thus, one of the greatest needs in the Lord's Church is trained and devoted Teachers of God's Word. Every Christian should be a teacher to the extent of his or her ability.

Acts 8:4 _____

Heb. 5:12 _____

Jesus was a Teacher!

In fact, He was the greatest of all teachers! He is "THE" Teacher!

Matt. 7:28-29 _____

While He taught the crowds of people who followed Him, His main job of teaching and training was the twelve disciples—preparing them for the great work of preaching and teaching that they would be called upon to do.

When the early churches got into trouble, an inspired letter would be sent to them with the intent of "teaching" them how to deal with their situation. The only way a troubled church can be saved is by their willingness to be taught the Word of God.

Col. 1:28 _____

1 Cor. 4:17 _____

Christ has entrusted the greatest message on earth to us, His followers! He wants us to see that all men are taught the message of God. To be even more effective in getting this job done, we must begin early to be taught and gladly be learners and scholars so that we can grow in our effectiveness as a teacher of His message.

The Gravity of Teaching!

It is not only important that we teach others, but that we teach them only God's truth. Look at the warning found in James!

Jas. 3:1 _____

The Lord does not want us not to teach—He is just trying to emphasize how critical it is to teach correctly. He wants us to be serious-minded teachers who make every effort not to teach someone incorrectly. Teachers must not be caught up in the trap of trying to please those whom they are teaching.

2 Tim. 4:1-5 _____

The Purpose of Teaching

The purpose of striving to teach others is not to use people for our own ends or purposes (2 Pet. 2:1-4). A teacher is a servant of others—one who is willing to sacrifice for others. A good teacher has to be willing to sacrifice his time, ability and his heart to help others. He has to labor hard to attain accurate knowledge of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Someone has suggested that teaching is 5% talent and 95% hard work! Teachers will fail unless they are willing to sacrifice—become a servant to others. A teacher has also got to live up to what he is striving to teach. People do not usually separate the message from the messenger.

Another purpose for teaching is to "inform" or share valuable knowledge with one of more persons. God's people are challenged to grow in our knowledge (2 Pet. 3:18) of the Lord and obviously His Word (Jn. 12:48) because it will be His Word that judges us in the Last Day!

Rev. 20:11-12 _____

1 Pet. 2:2 _____

If we ignore His Word and reject it (not be obedient to it), it will be the very thing that condemns us to everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46).

A third obvious purpose of teaching is to strive to motivate people to study and learn on their own. In a sense, teachers are trying to work themselves out of a job! When people start studying, learning, growing on their own—they in turn will be able to start teaching others.

2 Tim. 2:2 _____

Thus each of us can grow to the point of being vessels unto honor, fit for the Master's use!

2 Tim. 2:20-21 _____

1 Tim. 4:6 _____

Concluding Thoughts

Why should I want to teach others when it requires so much sacrifice on my part? Good question! Are there any rewards to be received for teaching others the Word of God? If just one soul can be turn from sin to God, it would all be worth the effort! However, the likelihood is that many will be saved in the Day of Judgment because of those who teach the Word of God.

While teaching is primarily done in our Bible Classes, Home Bible Studies, or one-on-one situations; it is still done in our worship assemblies as well. Preaching is obviously a form of teaching. Remarks by men up before the congregation can be teaching, exhortations, or motivations for us to live right. All of this teaching needs to be done with proper respect for God, His Word, and His people.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is teaching?

2. How can you know that you have taught someone?

3. What are some good characteristics that you want in a teacher?

4. How does teaching and worship tie together?

5. What are some things to avoid in teaching?

6. Do you believe this statement: "*A person is what he is taught to be.*"

7. Why is teaching so important in our world?

8. Why did God warn: "*Be not many of you teachers?*"

9. Do you believe that you could ever develop into a good teacher of the Word of God?

10. How does one show respect for God and His Word in his teaching?

Lesson Four

***"Training to Become a Deacon or the
Wife of a Deacon"***

The reason for the above title of this lesson is simple—we do not believe that women were appointed as Elders, Deacons, or Preachers in the early church! In view of such, we would not want to encourage a woman to be trained to be a Deacon—but rather, that she should be trained to be the wife of such. Most of the translators of the Bible indicate that they believe this to be true by the way they translate the word "Gune" as "wife" (1 Tim. 3:11). But inspiration states clearly that the woman is not to "exercise" authority over the man (1 Tim. 2:11-12; 1 Cor. 11:3).

Who is a Deacon in the Church?

A "Deacon" is one who serves or ministers to others. This is the basic meaning of the Greek word. It is so translated in the New Testament in most cases where the word is used. However, the term "Deacon" is not a translation of the Greek word, but a transliteration of the Greek term. When this Greek word is used in what the translators feel is an "official" sense, they did not translate the word, but transliterated it. Notice the following places where they did this:

- Phil. 1:1** _____
- 1 Tim. 3:8** _____
- 1 Tim. 3:10** _____
- 1 Tim. 3:12** _____
- 1 Tim. 3:13** _____

Deacons are looked upon as "special servants" of the church under the oversight of the Elders. They are given special job assignments and are expected to carry out the responsibilities assigned to them. However, they should also call upon other members to help them in their task. They become "overseers" in that sense over the special job assignment. While everyone in the church (men, women, boys, and girls) can be a servant to others; only a selected few can be appointed as "special servants" who meet certain qualities that we will look at briefly.

Who should be appointed as a Deacon?

Only those men who measure up to the qualifications given in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 should be appointed. Following is a listing of these qualities:

- 1. Reverent** (Grave, worthy of respect, dignified, serious, high principle, or honorable).

2. Not double-tongued (Not double-talk, not shifty but sincere in what

they say, not false in word, straight-forward men).

3. Not given to much wine (Not given to excessive drinking, not given to taking much wine, not addicted to wine, not addicted to strong drink).

4. Not greedy of filthy lucre (Not fond of sordid gain, not greedy of base gain, not greedy for ill-gotten gains, do not engage in questionable money-making, not a money-grubber, not resorting to ignoble and dishonest methods of gaining money).

5. Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience (Holding the sacred secrets of the faith, they must maintain the divine truth of the faith, with a pure conscience keeping hold on the hidden truth of the faith, they must be men who combine a clear conscience with a firm hold on the deep truths of our faith).

6. Let them first be proved (be tested first, be examined, be tested till approved, undergo probation, undergo scrutiny, tried, investigated, and proved first).

7. Found blameless (Unaccusable, without reproach, no objection raised against them, found irreproachable, no fault to be found with them, they are of unblemished character).

8. Husband of one wife (not polygamous, faithful to his one wife, be faithful husbands, be only once married).

9. Ruling their children and their houses well (presiding well over their children and own house, fitly ruling their children and houses, manage their children and household properly, admirable managers, have a happy and obedient families).

A congregation is usually as good or bad as its leaders. Qualified leaders are best because:

1. They represent the church to the community;

2. Affect the membership; and

3. Usually determine the direction the Church will go.

Lack of growth and work in the Church usually shows poor quality leaders. Where there is trouble in the Church and it is unattended to—it shows poor quality leadership. The reason for appointing qualified leadership is to secure men who are able to do the work assigned with the correct attitude.

Qualified leadership cannot be had by wishful thinking. It is something that must be desired, planned for, worked at, and encouraged. Men must be willing

to be trained, educated, and time given to the task. Every congregation can have qualified leadership if the congregation really sees the need, the value, and the rightness of God's arrangement.

Wives of Deacons

The saying ("*Behind every successful man is a godly wife.*") has merit! A good wife can make a difference in a man's effectiveness in his job, as well as his responsibilities in the church.

Prov. 18:22 _____

Prov. 19:14 _____

Qualities for the wives of both Elders and Deacons are given in 1 Timothy 3:11:

- 1. Reverent** (grave, dignified, worthy of respect and serious, serious-minded, serious in behavior, women of gravity).
- 2. Not slanderers** (will not talk scandal, not gossips, not malicious gossips, saying no evil of others, women of discretion).
- 3. Temperate** (sober, controlling themselves, self-control).
- 4. Faithful in all things** (Altogether trustworthy, trustworthy in every way, perfectly trustworthy, true in all things, women who can be trusted).

Concluding Thoughts

The future of any congregation will depend to a great degree on its leadership—the kind it encourages, the kind they are willing to follow, and the kind they appoint. If Jesus could take rough, unpolished men in the first century and make great leaders of them; why can't He do it today when men are willing to yield themselves to the Master teacher? Obviously the great question is—do we have men who will so yield themselves and reach out to the greatest of all challenges?

But, we believe that no man is fully fit to serve well in the Lord's Church unless he has a good, godly, faithful "helper" standing by his side! You girls can become that wife that helps to make a successful leader in the Lord's Church!

Questions for Discussion

1. Why do unqualified men desire leadership roles in the Church?

2. Why do we not have women who are appointed "Deaconesses?"

3. Is there only "5" places where the Greek word is transliterated by the word "Deacon?"

4. Is a "Deacon" allowed to drink wine, but not allowed to get drunk?

5. Can a man be appointed a "Deacon" if he has been married more than once?

6. Does a Lack of numerical growth indicate poor leadership in the Church?

7. Who usually has his pride in check?

8. Does the future of the Church depend greatly upon its leaders?

9. Do the wives of Deacons need to meet some of the same qualities that their husbands must meet?

10. Why are wives not suppose to be slanderers?

Lesson Five

**"Training to Become an Elder or
An Elder's Wife"**

Who cares if the Lord's Church (people) remains faithful to God or falls away; who cares if they go to Heaven or Hell; or who cares if they accomplish their mission or purpose for existence? Somebody needs to—that is for sure! God has appointed four basic kinds of leaders for His Church—Elders, Deacons, Preachers, and Teachers! Out of the four, the Elders are the ones who have been given the primary job of overseeing the Church. It will take a longer time to qualify to be an Elder in the Church than it would to be for becoming a Deacon. His qualifications are a bit more rigid.

The Identity of Elders

There are three terms in the Greek New Testament that identify these men. They also give some indication of the work they are appointed to do.

Πρεσβυτερος (Presbuteros). In most instances, this word is translated as "elders." (Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2,4,6,22,23; 15:4; 20:17,18; 1 Tim. 5:1, 17, 19; Tit. 1:5; Jas. 5:14; 1 Pet. 5:1). When this Greek word is used in reference to a group of Elders, it could be translated or transliterated as **Presbytery!** As you might guess, this is where the Presbyterian Church gets its name. The term generally denotes men of age and wisdom.

Ποιμεν (Poimen). This word is translated "Shepherd." A shepherd is one who sees after a flock of sheep. Notice how this idea is communicated in the following passages:

1 Pet. 5:4—Jesus is referred to as the "*Chief Shepherd.*"

1 Pet. 5:1-2—Elders are told to "*Shepherd the flock of God which is among you.*"

Eph. 4:11—The old KJV uses "*Pastors,*" but newer versions go to the word "*Shepherd.*"

Acts 20:28—The Apostle is addressing the Elders at Ephesus (Acts 20:17); and tells them to take heed to the

"flock of God." The old KJV translates the word *"to feed;"* but later versions use "*Shepherd.*"

Επισκοπος (Episkopos). This word is used 6 times with reference to the Elders of the Church. The old KJV uses an ecclesiastical term "*Bishop;*" but later versions translates it "*Overseer.*" All three terms can be used to identify those who rule in the Church.

Qualities required of Elders

God desires spiritually mature men to oversee His people! He is not as much concerned about the outward appearance of a man as He is the **heart** of those who will be the Shepherds of His Flock! Following is a listing in both 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 of the requirements of those who would serve as Shepherds.

1 Tim. 3:1-7

Blameless
Husband of one Wife
Temperate
Sober-Minded
Of good Behavior
Hospitable
Able to Teach
Not given to wine
Not violent
Not greedy for money
Gentle
Not Quarrelsome
Not Covetous
Who rules his own house well
Having his children in submission with all reverence
Not a novice
A good testimony from those who are outside

Titus 1:5-9

Blameless
Husband of one wife
Having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination
Not self-willed
Not quick-tempered
Not given to Wine
Not violent
Not Greedy for Money
Hospitable
A lover of what is good
Sober-minded
Just
Holy
Self-controlled
Holding fast the Faithful Word

1 Pet. 5:3 _____

Heb. 13:7 _____

1 Tim. 5:17-18 _____

1 Tim. 5:19-20 _____

1 Thess. 5:12-13 _____

Wives of Elders

The same qualities that were given in 1 Timothy 3:11 would seem to apply to the wives of Elders also. In fact, they are needed to be evaluated more carefully because of the responsibility of her husband. Please see the listing and the various translations that help to define the terms.

An Elder and his wife will probably have to deal more with the spiritual condition of people than the Deacon and his wife would do. For that reason it is important that she have sufficient maturity to be helpful as the two of them visit with people. Respect is given to an Elder and his wife because of the importance of their work among the people of God. Their influence (example) is critical to the successfulness of what they are striving to do.

Even though very little is said about the wives of Elders and Deacons, it is taken for granted that they are the "power" behind the men—supporting them, encouraging them, and helping when they are called upon. The influence of godly women is badly needed, but probably not appreciated as much as they should be. There is probably no greater responsibility for a woman to strive towards than that of being the wife of an Elder.

Concluding Thoughts

Leaders whose lives measure up to these qualities should make the best spiritual leaders for the church. Even though these qualities will challenge the best within a person and will be hard to reach; yet, to compromise and accept less than these qualities for leaders will be reflected in the effectiveness of their spiritual impact upon the group. We need to encourage leaders to reach up to meet the challenges rather than be satisfied with the mediocre. And the church needs to show gratitude and respect for those who aspire to such heights of leadership qualities.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why is it important for Elders to make wise and just decisions?
2. Why is the home life of an Elder important to his work?
3. What part can children play in preparing their father to be an Elder in the Church?
4. How can an Elder be considered blameless?
5. Is it a sin to dis-respect an Elder?
6. Why should a young person, like yourself, want to prepare themselves to be an Elder or the wife of an Elder?
7. Why is it important not to compromise on choosing qualified leaders for the church?
8. Why should there be a plurality of Elders appointed in each Church?
9. How does the Holy Spirit appoint Elders?
10. Why is the "Pastor System" as practiced by the religious world about us incorrect and improper?

Lesson Six

***"Training to Become a Preacher or
a Preacher's wife"***

For some reason or reasons, more emphasis has been placed on the training of "Preachers" more than for Elders, Deacons, or Teachers in the Church. We have congregations who set up and train men to be Preachers of the Gospel, but very little training in the other three areas. We know that God has placed all four leadership roles in the church for the good of His people—for their growth and maturing unto service. Each of these roles are vital to the spiritual strength and influence of a congregation in its community. Each must measure up to (be equipped and trained) to be the most effective.

The Identity of a Preacher

He, along with all other Christians, is to be a "Servant of the Lord!" When each of us became Christians, we changed our servitude from serving sin to serving the true and living God.

Rom. 6:16-18 _____

But, along with all other Christians, a Preacher is a "Teacher" of the Word of God. A Teacher may not be a Preacher; but a Preacher is a Teacher!

2 Tim. 2:2 _____

In a similar sense, as the above, all Christians may "Minister" to others; but the Preacher also "ministers" the Word of God to people!

2 Tim. 4:5 _____

There are three words that seem to be used primarily of those who preach God's Word:

Κερυξ (Kerux)—A Herald that announces a message that is not his own (2 Pet. 2:5; 1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11; 2 Cor. 4:5). He has not been sent to preach his own opinions, but the Word of Him who has sent him.

Κερυγμα (Kerugma)—A Preacher with the message of God (Matt. 12:41; Rom. 16:25). This is used in the sense of a public proclamation.

Ευαγγελιστες (Evangelistes)—As you can see, this word has not been translated, but transliterated into an English sounding word—Evangelist! This person is commanded to *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*" (2 Tim. 4:2). The distinction between a "local preacher" and an "evangelist" is purely a denominational concept—not biblical! (2 Tim. 4:5).

It is important that the "Preacher" do his work well! He must be able to "communicate effectively" in order to get his message from God properly understood. He needs to speak clearly to be heard and understood. He needs to speak properly—using words that people can identify with and easily understand. He needs to not only get their "attention" but keep their "attention!" Without listeners, his message is valueless. The "Preacher" has an important message to deliver from God and he must get people to hear and as well respond to this message.

The Importance of His Life

The following Scriptures will help to show the kind of life he should live before others:

- 1 Tim. 4:12 _____
- _____
- 1 Tim. 1:19 _____
- 1 Tim. 4:7 _____
- 1 Tim. 5:21 _____
- 1 Tim. 6:11 _____
- 2 Tim. 2:22 _____
- 2 Tim. 2:24 _____
- _____
- Tit. 2:8 _____

General Admonitions to Preachers

- 1 Tim. 1:18 _____
- 1 Tim. 2:7 _____
- 1 Tim. 4:5 _____
- 1 Tim. 4:13 _____
- _____
- 1 Tim. 4:15 _____
- 1 Tim. 4:16 _____
- _____
- 1 Tim. 5:1-3 _____
- _____

- 1 Tim. 5:20 _____
- 1 Tim. 6:5 _____
- 1 Tim. 6:12 _____
- 1 Tim. 6:20 _____
- 2 Tim. 1:8 _____
- 2 Tim. 2:3 _____
- 2 Tim. 1:13 _____
- 2 Tim. 2:1 _____
- 2 Tim. 2:2 _____
- 2 Tim. 2:15 _____
- 2 Tim. 4:2 _____
- Tit. 1:5 _____

Wives of Preachers

The qualities of the wives of Elders and Deacons (1 Tim. 3:11) probably would apply to the wives of Preachers as well. There does not seem to be a requirement for a preacher to be married, nor to have faithful children. However, just practical good common sense would suggest that when evaluating a man to come into our midst to preach, we should as well do some evaluating of his family. Wives of Preachers usually get more exposure in the congregation because of the continual preaching that is done before the congregation by her husband. This may put more pressure on the wife of a Preacher.....as well as his children. But with this exposure there comes greater opportunities to serve the people of God effectively. It is certainly a blessing for a Preacher to have a wife that really wants to be the wife of a Preacher.

Concluding Thoughts

A Preacher and his wife can play an important role in the growth and maturity of a congregation. It is important that he works together with the other Leaders in the Church so that God's people can see a united leadership.

Questions for Discussion

1. What can be expected of a Preacher in the way of leadership in a congregation?

2. Can you offer a reason why God had three Letters devoted to the instructing of preachers?

3. What are some things that help to make preaching more effective?

4. What are some legitimate reasons for men wanting to preach the Gospel?

5. Is a Preacher also a Minister? Why do you think so, if you do?

6. Why is the Preacher's life so important to his work?

7. What admonition to Preachers stands out in your mind?

8. Why should any young lady want to be the wife of a Preacher?

9. Does a Preacher have to be married?

10. What term do you prefer to be used to identify the one who stands before you to proclaim the Gospel?

