

**RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION
FOR THE CHURCH LIFE**

Message Three

**Bringing the Young People into the Church Life
through the Homes**

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:46-47; Rom. 16:5a; Acts 20:20; Heb. 10:25

- I. We see clearly that the building of the church is based on home meetings; the home meeting is God's unique way to build His church and reach His goal—Acts 2:46-47; Rom. 16:5a:**
- A. In the early days of the church life, the apostles built up the church very quickly, and the way of building was the small groups and home meetings—Acts 9:31.
 - B. The home meetings are the top way, the super way, and eventually the unique way to meet—Rom. 16:5a and footnote 1.
 - C. At the very beginning the way created by the Holy Spirit and ordained by God was to meet in two ways, in the congregational way and in the home way—Acts 20:20.
 - D. The home meetings are the unique way for the increase and building up of the church.
- II. We should endeavor to bring the young people into the practice of the church life through the homes; the small group becomes our practical church life:**
- A. We need to be in a definite local church that we can say is our local church; those who are not in the church life, they are orphans without a home; the day we came into the church life, we knew that we had come home.
 - B. To bring the meetings to the homes is the very heart of the God-ordained way; it is a great failure in the Lord's recovery if we cannot bring the meetings to the homes:
 - 1. The influence of the home meetings is most helpful for the families of the saints; from early days the children will be surrounded by a spiritual atmosphere, and will have constant opportunity to see the reality of eternal things—2 Tim. 3:15.
 - 2. The children in the home meetings will be preserved from drifting along the current of the age; in the end, the family will become proper and normal.
 - C. According to today's situation, you should not consider that to recover someone, you must bring that person to the big meetings in order to be successful; but as long as he can come to the home meetings every week, that will be very good—Acts 2:47; John 15:16:
 - 1. The big meetings cannot keep them, but the meetings from house to house bring the people into the foundation of the church; once a person joined the home meetings, he was kept; this is God's wisdom.
 - 2. To bring the young people in is easy, but to keep them is not so easy; begin by keeping them through their junior high years; then you have to keep them through their high school years; finally labor to keep them through college; after that they will be safe and secure.
 - D. We need the young people to go to the campuses, especially those who are eighteen and nineteen years old; all the young people in the church life are useful; this is why we have to work with our high schoolers:
 - 1. The gospel must go out from the homes; even the campus work can go out from the homes; for a church to be strong, the home meetings must be built up.

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2. The young people in the church can invite others to the homes of the middle-aged ones and of the young couples; all these homes need to be open and ready to receive the young people.
- E. Actually, the church life will be carried out practically in the group meeting; the most important thing today is to have our own group meeting that can be considered as our own assembly—Heb. 10:25.
- F. We need to lead the young people to come together to break bread and teach them to understand what the breaking of bread is and what its significance is; this is part of their church life.