

RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION FOR THE CHURCH LIFE

Message Two

How to Lead the Young People

(1)

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:55; Matt. 18:10; Luke 15:20, 4; 24:15, 28-29

I. If we want to help the young people, we must have an interest in them:

- A. Do not find their faults at first; if you do, you cannot help them—Luke 9:55; Matt. 18:10:
 - 1. Some have a special liking for the young people whom they consider good, but they purse their mouths and shake their heads when they see those whom they think are not good; this is wrong.
 - 2. Often times God will prove to us that our evaluation of those whom we think are good is inaccurate; instead, those whom you consider not good may be greatly used by God.
- B. Regardless of whether the young people are good or bad, we need to treat everyone the same, and we need to like them and be concerned for them:
 - 1. Play a game with them, and then talk to them about the Lord Jesus when the game is over; this is genuine capability.
 - 2. However, if you cannot talk to them about the Lord Jesus because He is gone after you play ball, then your spirituality is false.
- C. If we want to help the young people we need to be interested in them; do not be concerned about their mistakes and do not condemn them at all—cf. Luke 24:13-35.
- D. We should give the young people the feeling that we are their good friend, that we sympathize with them, and that we are interested in them and in their affairs.
- E. We all need to have the loving and forgiving heart of the Father God and the shepherding and seeking spirit of our Savior Christ—Luke 15:20, 4; 2 Tim. 1:7:
 - 1. Do not classify people, because no one can tell what they will become.
 - 2. The spirit that God has given us is a spirit of love—2 Tim. 1:7.
 - 3. The church is not a police station to arrest people, or a law court to condemn people, but a loving home, a hospital and a school.

II. Learn to contact the young people; helping the young brothers and sisters depends not on our ability to give them messages but on our regular, frequent contacts with them; remember not to talk about spiritual things at the initial contact with them:

- A. When you contact the young brothers and sisters, do not begin by asking, “How many chapters of the Bible have you read today? Have you prayed?”
- B. Such questions should not be brought up until you have had many contacts with them, maybe even after eight or ten times.
- C. If you do it prematurely, it is easy to cause a negative reaction; if you mess up the whole thing, he may not receive the Lord for his entire lifetime.
- D. Do not stir up his negative feeling by talking to him right away about reading the Bible or praying.
- E. You must wait until we have more contacts with him and he feels that he likes you and that you also like him.
- F. Once you have touched his feeling and earned his trust, then you can begin to talk about spiritual things.

III. Emphasizing practicality instead of stressing doctrines; when we help the young people, give them something practical:

- A. We should not put too much emphasis on doctrines, not only when we have personal contact with them but also when we are preaching the gospel or giving messages to them:
 - 1. If we give them only some doctrines and they come only to listen, there will not be much effect.
 - 2. The more we speak doctrines, the more the young people become dead, cold, and backsliding.
- B. Because young people have many practical problems, we need to sense their feelings beginning with these problems:
 - 1. We need to spend some time to study the problems of the young people in their practical living, including problems both before and after their salvation.
 - 2. Based upon our studies, when we preach the gospel or speak a word of edification to them, what we speak is practical and is related to the practical matters that we have touched in their lives.

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