

Built By the Lord

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Chapter 22

Being Involved

- I. The Five, Two, and One-Talent Families
 - A. Matthew 25:14-30 → The parable of the talents.
 - 1. In the parable a talent is money. A talent was a monetary unit worth about twenty years' wages for a laborer
 - 2. The principal is the same for abilities, resources, or opportunities. It is the same for anything useful to serve the Master, i.e., the Lord.
 - 3. Too many families have a low estimation of how their families can serve.
 - 4. Notice what the master said to the one-talent man, Matthew 15:26-30.
When you use a talent that God has given you, God will give you more.
 - B. Remember that we compared the church with a country club in our last lesson?
We are here NOT to be served but to serve. Matthew 10:42 → cup of cold water
- II. The Church's Work – 1 Timothy 3:15
 - A. Every congregation is different to some degree.
 - B. The main work is teaching.
 - C. Evangelism → Teaching others
 - 1. Website, correspondence courses, a phone message system, visitation program, knocking doors, any type of outreach.
 - 2. Inviting others may be the easiest way to do outreach.
 - 3. Consider the Samaritan woman at the well, John 4:29, 39-42
 - D. Encouraging others
 - 1. Romans 12:10; 1 Timothy 5:17 – Be an encouragement to others who are involved. Send a card of encouragement and thanks. Give them a phone call, have them into your home.
 - 2. There is a story of a man that visited his favorite restaurant that discontinued frog legs from the menu.
 - a. The man said that he could supply them. It turned out that the man only had two frogs that were making so much noise that he thought the pond was full of frogs.
 - b. While most brethren do honor and respect the leaders and treat them nicely, only the ones who are upset vocalize anything.
 - c. 1 Corinthians 12:23
 - E. Prospects for church growth
 - 1. One of the best prospects a local church has is the person who has visited one of the classes or assemblies.
 - a. Following up their visit with a visit or a card will help.
 - b. Someone sitting alone in the assembly should be an emergency.
 - 2. Friends, co-workers, family members are prospects to be added to the

church. Talk about Jesus in your life. Bring up what is going on at church.

3. Don't wait for someone to ask you to do this.

F. Your presence at every church function is encouraging.

1. Many congregations are dropping the PM services.

2. Just showing up is helpful.

G. Upkeep of the physical facilities is important.

H. Visitation → Steve Murdock – 1. Visiting the sick, hospitalized, nursing home, etc. 2. Visiting the shut-ins / widows / long term care → They might need errands ran / pick up medicine, food, etc. 3. Visit the erring

I. Personal studies

1. Hebrews 5:12 – This demonstrates natural growth for Christians. Eventually, you are expected to be able to teach. Christianity is a taught religion.

2. Romans 10:13-15; 1 Peter 3:15

3. What verses provoked you to believe and obey the gospel? Be prepared to share that with others.

J. The earliest church, Acts 2:44-47

1. In math we have formulas.

a. Area = length * width; Simple interest: Interest = Principal * Rate * Time

b. If you plug in the right numbers, you get the correct result.

c. Our formula for church growth is Acts 2:44-47.

2. The church worked together, assembling daily in the temple. Members were involved with one another on a daily basis.

3. The college and young adults have something going on 5 days of the week.

K. You don't have to wait for an assignment or an organized work day.

III. Family Foundations

A. Just a reminder, our thoughts from chapter five have not changed. "Family First"

B. First, schedule your family's personal habits of togetherness, including family worship, study, prayer, teaching, traditions, and fun together.

C. Second, as we are considering being involved with the church, look first for work you can do as a family and keep the family involved.

D. Third, when you have brethren into your home, especially for spiritual activities, keep your entire family involved.

E. Fourth, make sure you are being honest with yourself, family, and your brethren.

1. We need to make a priority for our family to be involved in worship and involved with our extended church family.

2. If we put those two things first... THEN add the secular extra-curriculars.

F. I cannot draw your lines for you regarding when you do what.

IV. Today's Response

A. With your family, write out all the ways you are involved in the work of your local church family. Is there anything else you can do to be involved? Schedule it and do it.

B. Consider the workers in your local church family. Also, consider the "cup of cold water" workers. How can you honor and encourage them both great and small?