

RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION FOR THE CHURCH LIFE

Session One

Changing the Concept in our Service— Teaching and Perfecting the Young People

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Tim. 2:2, 20; 3:17; Phil. 2:22; 4:9; Col. 1:28-29; 2 Tim. 3:14

I. Our present need is to change our concept and our system; we must learn to serve and how to serve with others and we must remember not to replace the saints but rather to bring them into the service with us—1 Cor. 12:14-22; Rom. 12:4-8:

- A. We should not say that the saints have no capacity; the problem is that we are short in perfecting them; if we will do a perfecting work, their capabilities will be brought forth—Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Cor. 13:9; cf. Luke 19:13.
- B. They must be perfected to do more than attend meetings, listen to messages, and help take care of some business affairs; these matters cannot draw out the interest and capacity of the saints—cf. Matt. 25:15.
- C. It is regrettable that we have neither learned to bring the saints into the service nor learned to perfect the saints; instead, we do everything by ourselves and thus unconsciously replace the saints—cf. Rev. 2:6, 15:
 - 1. Since we do not teach the new ones how to bring others into function, they will repeat our pattern of doing everything by themselves; after a period of time any work in their hands will also come to a standstill.
 - 2. We learn when we do things, but we learn more when we teach others; if we do not teach others, our learning is incomplete; when we teach others, we are forced to consider things thoroughly—2 Tim. 2:2; Eph. 4:11-12.
- D. We must change our system and change our concept; we must teach and train the saints in order for them to be useful; otherwise, no matter how much we preach the gospel, it will be difficult for us to gain the increase—cf. Rev. 2:6, 15.

II. We must pay attention to a fundamental point in the young people's work, which is that we must bring them into working with us—1 Cor. 16:10; Phil. 2:19-22:

- A. We should not replace others in whatever we do; however, we often do the work by ourselves and thus replace others; this is the natural way to work; we need to be aggressive and learn how to preach the gospel in a school without ever setting foot in the school—Phil. 2:22.
- B. We must always apply this principle no matter where we serve; the work must belong to the saints to the point that they are asking the workers for assistance rather than relying on them to do everything.
- C. In order to produce a useful brother, we must spend a few months to labor and gain him, by working on him until he is burdened to preach the gospel in his school—cf. 1 Thes. 1:5-8:
 - 1. We should spend time with him by fellowshiping with him, having meals with him, and leading him to pray until the young brother begins to love the Lord, is revived, and becomes willing to preach the gospel in his school—Phil. 2:22.
 - 2. We must work on the young people until they are raised up and until they are more zealous and more serious about the work than we are—Col. 1:28-29.

3. If this is the way we serve, every school will be open to us; both university students and junior high school students can be gained in this way.

III. In every school we must produce young saints who are very burdened, and we only assist and supply them from a distance—Eph. 4:11-12, 16:

- A. On one hand, we should not be afraid to let others serve, but on the other hand, we should watch them; that is, we must oversee—Acts 20:28; Titus 1:7; cf. 1 Pet. 2:25:
 1. After we hand things over, we should stand behind and watch the situation; this will enable us to see how well the person is doing—cf. Phil. 1:1.
 2. We should have the assurance that after so many years of observing, listening, and learning, the saints are able to bear responsibility; we should be at peace to commit matters into their hands; the saints simply need a little guiding—Phil. 4:9; 2 Tim. 3:14.
- B. The supply should not be in the way of leading the students in a meeting and this supply cannot be met by giving a message; what we supply should meet the students' real need:
 1. When the young saints ask for help, we should be ready to help them; if we cannot help them, they will not ask for help again.
 2. If the young saints learn something that they can apply, they will return for more help; then we can give them further direction.
 3. At this point, the work will be borne by both the students and the worker because the students carry it out at school, and the worker helps as needed; if we work in this way, it will be easy to gain a school.

IV. In the work and in the church we are not measured by whether or not we are capable; we are measured by how many useful ones we are able to produce; the standard of success does not depend on our ability to do a certain thing; the standard is determined by how many useful ones we can produce—2 Tim. 2:2; Eph. 4:12.