

Communicating the Gospel

The last place you would want to see Satan is in the leadership of the church, and that is exactly the place Satan wants to be!

One of the areas in leadership Satan will always try to enter is in the communication of the Faith.

He will attempt to change the message we deliver to those on the outside. We must guard against that!

He will attempt to discourage us from passing down the Faith to believers in our number.

He will attempt to convince us that the status-quo is acceptable.

There are 4 stages of church development. I've discussed these before, but it has been a while. We're not there yet. Whether we were there in the past is irrelevant because we are not there today. So what are the 4 stages?

- I. Forming the Congregation
- II. Developing autonomy in the congregation's leadership (Titus 1:5; etc.)
 - A. They can get along without a missionary being there all the time, or preacher for that matter.
- III. Developing propagation within the congregation.
 - A. For leadership—our focus in this lesson (2 Timothy 2:2)
 - B. This begins by developing men in their responsibilities in the HOME first.
 1. 1 Timothy 3:2, 12
 2. 1 Timothy 3:5
 - C. It also must be through teaching the Bible to both men and women.
 - D. A congregation cannot mature into the fourth category until it first achieves fluency in THIS one.
 - E. Notice these related passages
 1. Romans 15:14—the church was able to do this without Paul there.
 2. 1 Corinthians 16:15-16—these worked and grew with the church and learned to lead.
 3. 2 Corinthians 10:15-16—He wanted them to progress beyond this. he wanted them to be able to adequately train their own leaders so they could free Paul up to go other places.
- IV. To achieve these things we must learn to COMMUNICATE the Gospel.
 - A. This begins with the leaders that we have NOW, not the ones we had in the past.
 1. Christianity is not divided into work the elders do, work the preacher does, work the deacons do, and work the members do. WE ALL DO THE SAME BASIC WORK.
 2. What are you doing to communicate the faith to others?
 3. If you are not capable of communicating the faith to others who are interested in learning, what are you doing to prepare yourself for this responsibility?
 4. Leadership is voluntary, but it comes with a price!
 - a) it is a place of SERVICE, not a place of PRESTIGE.
 - b) You wanted to be a leader. It's time to lead if you are not doing it!

5. Every one of our leaders should be serving others by mentoring others in the work of the Lord.
 - a) Teaching Bible class is great, but it is NOT the same thing.
 - b) If you are not at a place where you can do that, don't fret over it. That can be fixed—we just want you to have the DESIRE to lead us at least.

B. What would be required of you?

1. Acceptance of your responsibility
 2. Time set aside for others. Let's face it. It takes a lot of time to help others learn and grow.
 3. Determination to take advantage of opportunities.
 4. Vision for what we are trying to accomplish.
 - a) Soul Development!
 - b) We want to build up this congregation, but we do not want to do it in a way that will harm the church.
 - c) That means we spend time training others on the work of a Christian
 - d) What is that work? Soul-Development.
 - (1) Training in love for God and others
 - (2) Training in the truth of the Gospel—including protecting others from sinful practices.
 - (3) Training in evangelism
 - (4) Training in leadership so they can train others too.
- I am not content with status-quo in the church here!
 - I know many of you are the same. You want to see the church GROW.
 - But that can't happen until we first choose to reject mediocrity and the status-quo.
 - It's the status-quo that keeps us where we now are. I hope you'll see the call to rise up and build and not accept the things the way they are!
 - Satan wants to keep us where we are—and that means we will eventually stop growing and start shrinking unless we choose to ACT.

Are YOU willing to step out in faith tonight?