

Who Should Teach?

As a faithful member of the church, you need to be impressed with the great opportunity and responsibility you have to teach another person the word of truth that you have learned. God wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of truth (1 Tim. 2:4). How will that happen? Since it is by the preaching and teaching of the gospel, God's power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16), that people are saved (1 Cor. 1:21), Christ wants all of His disciples to be teaching it to others (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16; 2 Tim. 2:2).

Why You Should Teach Others

- * You are a Christian. You have been created in Christ Jesus for good works (Titus 2:14). As a matter of fact, you are to be "zealous" for them. If you are not accomplishing any of them, of what value are you to the Lord? Every Christian is expected to bear fruit (John 15:1-6).
- * One of the greatest joys a Christian can have is that of teaching and converting another person (3 John 4).
- * You will be following the example of Jesus. He loved people (John 15:13). One of the ways He showed that great love was by personally teaching men and women the truth (Luke 19:10).
- * Christ commanded it in the great commission given in Matt. 28:18-20. Those who have been taught and baptized are, in turn, to teach others.
- * You will be following the example of the first century Christians who "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). Not even persecution stopped them from preaching the gospel of Christ.
- * You will be considered a faithful Christian because faithful children of God are to teach others (2 Tim. 2:2).
- * Self-preservation. Teaching others is vital to your growth and development as a child of God (Heb. 5:12-14). By constantly teaching others you maintain an interest in spiritual things.
- * You can increase the teaching power of your local congregation. Though members might differ as to knowledge and/or ability, all should be actively teaching (1 Cor. 12:12-27). At the present time, though, you may feel your knowledge is too limited and that you cannot possibly teach someone else. If you knew enough to become a Christian, you know enough to tell others what you did and why you did it.
- * It is the greatest work in the world-saving a soul (Matt. 16:26). Nothing else you can do lasts forever. Your efforts in teaching others can have an eternal impact on their lives and yours.

Who Can You Teach?

Prospects abound. They are all around you every day. You need to heed the instruction Jesus gave to His disciples in John 4:35 and "lift up your eyes." Here is a short list of some who need the gospel: your family, relatives, neighbors, fellow-workers, fellow-students, members of clubs or other organizations of which you belong, and anyone who is not a Christian!

Conclusion

Every one of God's children should be willing to share the precious gospel with others. If the lost are going to hear the truth, they must hear from those who know it. Let each of us resolve to do our part and reach out to those who need us. Let us all be sowers of the word.

- by Gene Taylor

Honesty, The Only Policy

For years it has been stated that "honesty is the best policy." Nonetheless, there have been and continue to be those who act otherwise - Those who want to lie, cheat, over exaggerate, and deal dishonestly with others.

No matter how far from right this world may go, God's word must be respected. From it, we learn that honesty is commanded. Paul told the church at Rome to "...provide things honest in the sight of all men" (Rom. 12:17). For the Corinthians he prayed that they might "do that which is honest..." (2 Cor. 13:7). Is any less expected of God's people today? Certainly not!

But someone says, "It doesn't hurt to tell a little white lie," "It's o.k. to stretch the truth to get what you want." "God understands if I have to cover up some minor details from time to time." Fact is, it does hurt, it's not o.k., and He doesn't understand! Whether "white", "slightly stretched", or "just a cover up" - a lie is a lie! For the Christian, honesty is the only policy.

- by **David McPherson**

Evil Company

The story is told of two parrots who lived near each other. The one was accustomed to singing hymns while the other was addicted to swearing. The owner of the latter obtained permission for it to associate with the former in the hope that its bad habit would be corrected. Instead, the opposite happened as both learned to swear!

The little story reminds us of a passage in 1 Corinthians 15:33 which says, "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'" (NKJV). A person may feel like he can associate with wicked people and not be hurt. He may think that he can be a good influence on the godless person. Perhaps he can, but influence can go in two directions, and there is a great danger of the wicked person influencing the good person. If a person thinks otherwise, he may be "deceived." Young people, as well as older people, need to choose their friends carefully. Remember, "Evil company corrupts good habits."

- by **J. Mike Johnson**

"Weightier Matters of the Law"

In rebuking the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus said: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel." (Matthew 23:23,24)

Some have mistakenly taught that Jesus' problem with these religious hypocrites was their painstaking insistence upon keeping the minute aspects of their law. Jesus, it is claimed, was instructing them (and us) not to worry about trying to keep the finer points of the law but, rather, concentrate on the more substantial and meaningful matters of the heart.

The problem, of course, with this interpretation is that it completely ignores what Jesus said! Should they have concerned themselves with something as simple as tithing their garden herbs? YES -- "these ought ye to have done." But in doing this, He urged them not to neglect things that require even more effort to perfect -- things like judgment, mercy, and faith -- the "weightier matters of the law."

We think there is a fitting application of the principle that Jesus here sets forth. Consider this: from time to time we hear of a brother or sister who is quite upset about some issue. It is often one of those "finer points of law" -- i.e., the length of a woman's hair, how many children an elder must have, whether or not to offer the Lord's Supper on Sunday night, etc. They will gladly debate at length in favor of their particular understanding of the matter. We have no problem with this -- all such things are important. But then this same person will neglect the assemblies, fail to participate in the work of the church, exhibit moral impurity, etc. It seems that such folks need to attend to the "weightier matters of the law." They should stop "straining at a gnat, while swallowing a camel." Do you see it? Think!