

DEAD WEIGHT IN THE CHURCH

I've been a dead weight many years
Around the church's neck;
I've let the others carry me
And always pay the check.

I've had my name upon the rolls
For years and years gone by;
I've criticized and grumbled, too;
Nothing could satisfy.

I've been a dead weight long enough
Upon the church's back;
Beginning now, I'm going to take
A wholly different track.

I'm going to pray and pay and work
And carry loads instead;
And not have others carry me
As people do the dead.

WHY WE NEED EACH OTHER

The huge redwood trees of California amaze mankind. They are the largest living things on earth and the tallest trees in the world. Some of them are 300 feet high and over 2,500 years old. One would think that a tree so large must have a tremendous root system that reaches down hundreds of feet into the earth. But not so! The redwoods have a very shallow root system. If one was to get down on his knees and examine the redwoods root system he would find that all the roots intertwine. They are not alone for all the trees support and protect each other. Each tree is important to all other trees in the grove. This vivid illustration should teach us the necessity of meaningful involvement with each other.

The church is souls in fellowship. Like the redwoods we support and protect each other. Without Christ, the church is nothing and without fellowship, the church is useless. By our love, we must show the world what a difference Jesus makes!

The Church Messenger

Bring Someone To Worship

Someone recently said "Door knocking beats nothing, but that is all it beats". We are great at "guilt evangelism" so we run out and "knock doors" again. Brethren who cannot find prospects cannot keep converts. Is it better if people do not know us? In a local city why not meet, know, and develop relationships with the lost? By door-knocking we mean "cold-turkey"... calling suddenly upon strangers. If one cannot influence family/friends, what qualifies him to pick on strangers?

So we look for the "magic button"... the new "evangelize the world in 80 days". For decades we have grasped for this "substitute" for real evangelism. Up and down like a roller coaster.

Evangelism is simply people with people. Why not invite friends to worship? It is that simple. One young man recently brought seven to worship! In the last year several have been baptized simply from such invitations. Try it! We remember the 50's when allegedly we were baptizing so many - one key word was "inviting". Friends were invited and brought. Let them see what the church is, who we are, and what is expected.

Whom have you invited? Brought? Baptized? There is no need of talking about evangelism, world-wide missions, when we are not even interested in bringing others. Invite five per week, ten per week. Keep inviting. Let's have classes, sermons, works relevant with their lives. Before you criticize a lack of evangelism - bring somebody.

-Charles Hodge

Church of Christ

Home Gardens

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Matthew 28:19-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

This is what's known as the Great Commission, and when you talk about Teaching you need to look at the Great Commission. It has much to say about teaching.

1. First we see that we are to Go Teach. Go means to go and find people to teach and not to wait on someone to come to us. But to go out everywhere that we can find people to teach. It might be to teach a friend at work or at school. To teach a waitress at a restaurant you frequent. A checker at your grocery store. Anybody you might meet in your life. Go Teach!
2. Second we see our goal of teaching. Which is to baptize. To baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Baptism is a total immersion in water. In Romans 6 we read about baptism. When one is baptized you follow the Plan of Salvation. When you are buried in the water you die to sin and are buried, then when you are brought back up, you are raised up in newness of life. Just as Christ died, was buried and then arose on the third day. This is what our teaching is all about.
3. Teach to observe all things. Teach to obey what Christ taught. Which we read about in the Bible. How Can You Teach? The main way you teach is by your actions. What you do teaches a lesson. Your actions will be a big plus in setting up a Bible Study. If someone sees a Christian in action they will want to know more about what makes you tick. This is an opportunity to teach. If your thoughts lead to Christ then everything will lead to Christ. Your conversation will point to

Jesus Christ and what he has commanded. Your conversation will point others to Christ. Teach all things commanded.

4. No need to be afraid, Christ will be with us. This is a great feeling. When you do what Christ has commanded, when you teach the gospel, you are not alone. "Christ will be with you always. Even unto the end of the world". What is there then to be afraid of? Think about it. You are not alone when you are obedient. Isn't it great?

Teaching others the need of obeying the gospel and being baptized is a commandment. It's a great feeling when you teach someone and they obey the gospel. Next to obeying the gospel yourself it may be one of the greatest feelings you'll ever feel. Think Teach!

Don't Let Yourself . . .

- . . . Worry when you are doing your best.
 - . . . Hurry when success depends on your accuracy.
 - . . . Think Evil of a friend until you have the facts.
 - . . . Believe a thing impossible without trying.
 - . . . Trust an elastic conscience.
 - . . . Waste time on peevish and perving matters.
 - . . . Imagine that good intentions are a satisfying expense.
 - . . . Harbor bitterness in your heart toward God or man.
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REMARKABLE

The most remarkable kind of person on earth is the Christian. He is a son of the living God and filled with astonishing potential. While living in time he can accomplish the things of eternity. He can bring a touch of heaven to the darkness of this earth. He is a human vehicle of the transforming power of God to reach the hearts of a lost mankind.