

Teach 'em or Leave 'em

Pentecostals of Dadeville – Rev Andrew Salinas

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The role of a parent is not merely to teach his children the gospel but rather to teach his children to teach the gospel to their children. Have we successfully taught our children the gospel, or taught them how to teach their children?

With our spiritual children, we "dunk'em and leave'em". Little follow-up or explanation. The job before us is not merely to reproduce but to produce producers!

Christianity is a taught religion. Paul's instruction to Timothy was, *2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.* Paul was concerned with four generations of reproduction, and we often focus on just one!

The church focuses on teaching people to teach people and to teach people to teach people and to teach people to ... (well you get the picture) and to teach the gospel to the lost.

The System

We can choose the denominational pastor system where the preacher runs the whole show. Or, we can take the role of an assistant and co-worker. In business, these two roles could be compared to being the boss or being the sales manager. For illustration, let's parallel the church to an automobile dealership. The sales manager is a man with a proven record of sales and an intimate knowledge of the selling process. He is a skilled salesman who can outsell anyone else two-to-one. That's why he's the manager. In a 40-hour workweek, he can sell 20 cars. But if he spends that same 40 hours training, supporting, and advising his team of 10 salesmen, who will be able to sell 10 cars each, his total sales volume will then be 100 instead of 20. Get the illustration? That's a five-fold increase in return for the same amount of time! Now, if you were the boss, where would you direct the sales manager to spend his time- selling or training?

Unfortunately, some people want to be the boss rather than the sales manager. They want to be in the driver's seat rather than take the backseat and encourage the members to teach the gospel. The fireball Saint of God will convert 10 persons a year; but if he spent his time training the members to reach the lost, the church would double every year regardless of its size. It's almost guaranteed! When it comes to church growth, I believe the leaders should view the members as his sales team. His time is best spent training, supporting, and advising the members as they seek the lost. When prospects walk into our showroom on Sunday morning, he should give the study to one of the sales team members.

What do we expect ?

- We expect doctors to treat us, not train us to treat others.
- We expect lawyers to give us expert legal advice, not to train us to defend ourselves in court.
- We expect the police to protect us, and not teach us how to protect ourselves.
- Likewise, in many local churches the preacher is looked at as the official religionist, the expert
- ...not the one who turns "laymen" into ministers. We want the preachers to do the job for us.
- Jesus rejected this professional type of leadership model in Mt 23:1-12 (Printed at the end.)

What do we teach?

The truth of course, these are the things God has done and revealed to you and me. We must hold the Bible as the absolute and complete truth. We must walk, talk, breath, and live what we believe..

Luke 12:12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

How do we teach?

By our action and our everyday actions. We must ask the question how long to we have? And use that urgency to communicate this message.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Who do we teach?

1. We must first pray for God to open doors of those he wants us to speak to.
2. We should find somebody with the same personality and help them discover their talent.
3. We must teach our and others children.

It has been said: You cannot teach a person anything; you can only help him find it within himself.
~Galileo Galilei

Equipping the saints for the work of service does hold the promise of growth if we remember that we are the workmen and God causes the growth. We need to work as if everything depends on us and pray as of everything depends on God!

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

1 Timothy 4:11 These things command and teach.

1 Timothy 6:2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

2 Timothy 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

Titus 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 4:17 ¶For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

Matthew 23:1 ¶Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

9 And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.