

SHEPHERDING CARE FOR COLLEGE-AGE AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Church in Los Angeles – Hall 2 Fellowship
(April 11, 2010, 4 to 5:30 p.m.)

“Lord, we pray that the college-age and young people become related to the saints in the area in which they live, that all the saints would care for them with the loving and forgiving heart of the Father God and the shepherding and seeking spirit of the Savior Christ, and that every young person would advance in their rich experience of Christ and the church. And, Lord, grant us an increase in our appreciation of their value and preciousness in the church life. May the young people enjoy the shepherding of all the saints under an atmosphere where grace is contagious, both in the homes, larger gatherings, and individually.”

I. Feeding and Shepherding Care for Students

A. Prayer, the Spirit and the Word

“Let the **word** of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.” (Col. 3:16)

“Be filled in **spirit**.” (Eph. 5:18b)

B. Rejoicing

“...rejoice in the Lord.” “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.” (Phil 3:1a; 4:4)
“Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory.” (1 Peter 1:8)

C. Give Grace

“... the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you.” (Eph. 3:2)

“To me...was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel and to enlighten all...” (Eph. 3:8-9)

The words out of our mouths should “...give grace to those who hear.” (Eph. 4:29)

D. Give Milk

“I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able to receive it. But neither yet now are you able.” (1 Cor. 3:2a)

“As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation, if you have tasted that the Lord is good.” (1 Peter 2:2-3)

- Sing hymns that appeal to younger saints (shorter, quicker); songs of enjoyment; not long, not deep; let YP and college students pick the hymns and the tunes.
- Be simple in studying truth; not long readings.

- No speaking about needs of the church; no prayer requests for sick people or situations unknown to those present; no speaking about experiences outside the scope of their lives (e.g. aches and pains of old age)

E. Water One Another

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.” (1 Cor. 3:6)

F. Walk in Newness

“...walk in newness of life.” (Rom. 6:4)

“Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.”

(Phil 3:13-14)

“And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month.” (Rev. 22:2a)

- Testify fresh enjoyment and experiences, not old experiences.
- No history lessons; no good old days; no nostalgia.

G. Minister the Spirit

“Our sufficiency is from God, who has also made us sufficient as ministers...not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” (2 Cor. 3:5-6)

“Charge certain ones not to teach different things nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.” (1 Tim. 1:3b-4).

II. Being “Jesusly” Human

A. A Good Listener

- Getting into their interests

B. Approachable

- Easy to be contacted
- All-fitting life
- Four Living Creatures

III. Love is the Most Excellent Way

A. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. (1 Cor. 8:1b)

B. The Definition of Love

“Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up; It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil; it does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; it covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never falls away...” (1 Cor. 13:4-8a)

C. Kindness

“Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, not know that God’s kindness is leading you to repentance?” (Rom. 2:4)

IV. Practical Points to Practice

1. Not being quick, but spending an adequate amount of time to shepherd people; we should shepherd people by contacting them repeatedly.
2. Being positive and not sloppy; we should not contact people through rebuke or condemnation with any negative spirit, attitude, or tone.
3. Remembering well that the church is not a police station or law court, and that we are not the policemen or judges.
4. Being happy persons with a joyful spirit, always humble, mild and easy to contact.
5. Listening to others in order to realize their true need and real situation.
6. Visiting others without saying much.
7. Not making decisions for others.
8. Never arguing with people; we should avoid arguments and try to find the opportunity to minister Christ to people.
9. Not passing on vain knowledge.
10. Not being involved in any negative talk; we should not be a “trash can.”
11. Being honest and not political.
12. Ministering life to others; we must realize that what people need is the Lord and try to give them an “injection” of Christ.
13. Taking the lead to bring others into a prayer life; we should help them to contact the Lord and take the chance to pray with them and lead them to the Lord in that prayer.
14. Contacting people with patience.
15. Trusting those under your care.
16. Never forcing anyone to do anything; we should not even try to overly influence people.
17. Fellowshiping with others according to our own experience.
18. Not carrying out a social work; we should consider whether a certain case will waste our time and stay away from complicated involvements.