



School Of Ministry

Lesson 34

CHURCH PIONEERING, Planting, & Leading (3) **(People Skills, Ministry Skills and 'BTS' Labor)**

- (1) Developing People Skills...Luke 6:27-42; Acts 20:17-38; Ephesians 5:8-11;
Colossians 3:8-25; Philippians 2:1-8; I Peter 5:1-5; I John 4:7-21**

Scripture is full of identified people skills because God loves people and paid the highest price for their redemption. It is impossible to be in the ministry or serve God in any way without having to relate with people. It has been rightly said that "Ministry is about People". It is important that ministers commit to improving their people skills regardless of what their past experiences may have been.

- (a) Five Major Hindrances to Relating to People....include:** 1. PERSONAL INSECURITY; 2. COMPARISONS; 3. JEALOUSIES; 4. LACK OF CONFIDENCE; 5. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE.

If a minister harbors inward and personal insecurities about himself / herself, they will tend to interpret people's behavior in light of their own insecurities, and filter their actions through their own wrong attitudes. This will make a minister suspicious of others' actions or words, and hence be unable to either receive from them or minister to them.

- (b) Top 10 (ten) Reasons Ministers are Not Happy....** Are: 1. People have said harsh things about them; 2. They are lonely and don't have trusted friends; 3. They are having marital strife or frustrations; 4. Their ministry is not appreciated, affirmed, growing, or celebrated; 5. They are struggling financially; 6. They need more helpers in the ministry; 7. They are worn out or "burnt out" from doing what God did not command; 8. They are harboring secret sins or emotions; 9. They have no one interceding for them; and 10. They have not learned that "Joy is a choice".

It is imperative that ministers make a conscious decision and continually remind themselves that: 1. GOD must be the FOCUS of their lives and is alone responsible for their fulfillment and blessing;

2. PEOPLE must be the OBJECT of their SERVICE, and we must expect nothing in return from them (Brother Keith Moore: *“When it come to what other people should do for me, I am going to expect and presume nothing, but be thankful for everything”*); and 3. The MINISTRY is the PLATFORM for fulfilling their ASSIGNMENT, and it must be celebrated, and the GRACE that makes it possible protected.

- (c) **Developing the People Skills of Love and the Spirit...** from a biblical and spiritual perspective is a simple thing. We are to walk in love, love one another fervently, and cover a multitude of human weaknesses. The New Testament is dominated by the revelation of the Love of God and how that spirit fills our hearts, and flows out of us to others. It is the primary enabling force behind biblical people skills (See I John 4:16; I Timothy 1:5; John 13:34; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8 & Matthew 7:12). **Galatians 5:19-23 enumerates** the **qualities** that constitute the People skills of the Spirit. These qualities are not produced by education, training, or classes. These dynamic attitudes are the end-result of a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. They are LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONG-SUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, MEEKNESS, and SELF-CONTROL. Ministers must work to cultivate these daily.
- (d) **Master the Fundamentals...** in order to develop godly people skills, Meditate on the Word of God; Spend time in Prayer and fasting; Watch and emulate godly leaders; Practice making daily changes in attitude and action; Make a note of the qualities you admire in others; Be a reader and glean from others; and become more focused on how God sees you and what He thinks about you rather than what people think. Be honest with yourself, and humbly ask God for His help when you struggle.

(2) Behind the Scenes (BTS) Labor.....

Much of the work of the ministry is done behind the scenes, outside of the meetings themselves. Successful ministers know that the key to ensuring a smooth flow of blessings on an endeavor, and enjoying God’s blessings in services, meetings or events is the work done behind the scenes. This work includes planning the events, acquiring and maintaining property and equipment, cleaning, arranging stuff, taking care of aesthetics etc. Hosting meetings, services, or events in the church building, home, or other public places is like receiving guests into a home.

Pre-Meeting: Announcements need to be made, needed supplies and stationery prepared, sits etc arranged, and servers in place. Preparing, positioning, and empowering workers in the ministry of Helps etc must be done before the meeting. We must do our BEST to make EXCELLENCE the hallmark of all we do. The GOAL is ensuring there are no hindrances or distractions to the move of the Holy Spirit who is the Guest of honor in the meeting. It is also to ensure that guests (attendees and visitors) can be relaxed, enjoy the meeting, and receive all that God has for them.

Post-Meeting, there is tidying up, cleaning ups, calling ups, paying ups, signing ups, checking ups (on needed improvements & feedbacks etc), setting ups, and praying up etc that must be done so subsequent meetings are better.

(3) Developing Ministry (Meeting) Skills.....The celebration of all the prayer, study, working with people, and laboring behind the scenes usually happens in our gatherings. Whether small or large, it is important that ministers develop skills that enhance the smooth flow of meetings and ensure that God's goals for the gatherings are achieved. There must be a spirit of unity, purpose, excellence, and devotion. There must also be smooth transitions, seamless coordination, and clear leadership from the pulpit (see **Psalm 133**). It is important to learn proper Pulpit platform etiquette: Appearance should be appropriate (not faddish or extreme outfits) so God is the focus of our meeting. Hygienic distractions, inappropriate gestures, coarse language, every form of negativity and (appearances of) un-seriousness, uptightness, or rigidity should be avoided. A **GODLY COUNTENANCE, CLEAR COMMUNICATION, and SMOOTH TRANSITIONS** must be a priority. When privileged to lead from the platform, it is important to promote and create the right atmosphere: **EXALT JESUS CHRIST, exalt the WORD of GOD, edify the SAINTS, and honor AUTHORITY** set by God in the House.

(a) Setting the Flow of a Christian Gathering....A river flows naturally from one point to another in one direction with little or no disruption, no stopping or jerking, controlled by banks, and bringing refreshing and life wherever it goes. (See Jer 31:12-17; Isa 60:1-5; John 7:38). To flow (Hebrew 'nahar') means *to sparkle as the sheen of a running stream*. A church service, event or meeting should be this way: flowing supernaturally in one direction with little or no disruption, jerking or stopping, controlled by biblical principles and godly leaders and bringing refreshing and life to the people. ***The goal of the flow is to create a secure, peaceful atmosphere and setting for edifying ministry, impartation of life, and the manifestation of the Presence of God.*** It is priceless, and ministers must develop the skill of setting it.

(b) Other Ministry Skills.....Administering Sacraments such as the Holy Communion, Receiving Offerings and Praying at the Altar, Ministering to the afflicted, Leading Worship and Prayers, Dedicating Babies and Possessions, Making Appeals etc are other skills ministers must learn as they grow in the ministry.