

Everyone Fits Somewhere

When we started our church, we had no one to help us. I preached and taught Sunday school for sixth grade and above. Mrs. Goddard taught children's church and Sunday school for smaller children.

Doing that only lasted a week or two because I felt my wife needed to be in a church service, but we were going to have to wait until we had trained a Sunday school teacher to cover the other hour.

Of course, you want to grow as quickly as possible, but since I felt I needed to start out right from the beginning, I needed someone who would fit the desired role of a teacher -- soul winner, modest in dress, separated, in agreement with us doctrinally, etc.

The Lord did a wonderful thing for us, and within a few weeks we met a soul winner, a lady who needed only minor adjusting, and then all was well. At our church, all the leaders, teachers, and staff have to be in agreement with us in every area philosophically. It has always been that way.

But everyone matters to the ministry of the church.

Ephesians 4:16 "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which **every joint** supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

Although we have people who are growing at different speeds, each one should have a place to serve. Ushers have different requirements from teachers who have different requirements from choir members. There are people who help with food or usher in our adult classes who still are a little more than rough, but they all belong to our church family, and they all "supply" something vital to the church. They are "fitly joined together and compacted by that which **every joint** supplieth,"

Where you draw lines is your business, but have them. What you ask of various leaders or those holding positions is entirely up to you as pastor. But you should have a set of requirements. If you do not, you will have a disjointed mess with no idea of what anyone believes or what they are teaching others to become.

But do not have every position so demanding of spiritual maturity that there is no place for younger Christians to serve. We all need to serve. Serving is what helps us grow.

There are those who need to grow, but they have talents useful to the ministry.

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.”

1 Corinthians 3:1 “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.”

vs. 2 “I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.”

vs. 3 “For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

Everyone will need to be totally surrendered or no one will be; so find ways to use people. There is a place for everyone. But as you plan places of service, do not compromise on right.

Get people involved, and God will fix them up at His pace.

John 15:2 “...every *branch* that **beareth** fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.”

When we begin to bear fruit, the Lord purges us. Fruit-bearing is a stepping stone to gain God’s help in growth.

2 Peter 3:18 “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

I want people to grow. I have had people show up for soul winning looking anything except a separated soul winner. But I have also seen these folks grow into Godly, separated soul winners.

Your people will vary in areas both of growth and lack of growth. Growth may be slow due to the powerful draw of secular sports, public schools, dress, music, and of course, booze. But try to find a place of service for everyone. That place may not be what they desire; therefore you should care when explaining why they can do one thing and not another. Use diplomacy.

Written standards should be in place for any position held in the church because a written list helps everyone you recruit know what is expected of him. Be sure to have some jobs with minimal requirements so the younger or even the backslidden can serve.

www.thepreachersfriend.com