

GIVING IS DEVELOPMENTAL

NOTE: Those who are

liberal in giving of their time, money, ability, into the service of the Lord always walk the high peaks of joy, happiness and peace of mind.

1. Those who learn to share in these things have learned the first lesson of the Christian life.

Our primary interest in leading people to give of their money, time, ability ETC cannot be promotional. It must be developmental to be pleasing to God. The individual must grow and growth means to develope.

The very thought of "promotional" activity suggest some dangerous trends in the church today. TRENDS in the wrong direction. Dr. Lowell Johnson in the 20th Century Christian of April 1964 warns about some of these trends. Let us notice some of them:

1. The trend toward passive group activities and away from individual participation.
 1. There is the tendency to look upon the church as an institution with institutional promotional programs.
 2. We should look upon the church as a functioning body made up of individual Christians, whose activities and participation constitute the program of the church
2. The trend toward many promotional schemes in promoting attendance goals, financing goals, ETC
 1. Very little effort to develope the individual Christian to have the desire and the ability to carry out these programs of work.
3. The trend toward a Board of Directors concept of the elders.
 1. In this trend the elders become a board of "yes and no" men.
 2. This Board of Directors concept of the elders is directly opposed to the Shepherd-leader New Testament concept.
 3. Elders are men who function as shepherds who feed, protect, and guide the flock."

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... the first ...
... the first ...

Our primary interest is in testing people to give
their money, time, ability etc cannot be pro-
duced. It must be demonstrated to be possible
within the individual's knowledge and ability
to invest.

The very concept of "individual" activity is
somehow related to the concept of "individual"
in the sense of the word. It is a concept
of the individual as a whole, not just
a part of the whole. It is a concept
of the individual as a whole, not just
a part of the whole.

In the first instance, the individual is
seen as a whole, not just a part of the whole.
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a part of the whole. The individual is
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The trend toward a more individualized
approach to the study of the individual
is seen in the work of the individual
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4. A trend toward emphasis on status, and away from emphasis on service as a measure of greatness. (Numbers, Contribution, Building ETC)
1. All this warns of the danger of being governed promotional programs and budgets.
 2. Service motivated by an alert humility is the measure by which true greatness may be known.
5. The trend toward outer conformity and away from inner convictions.
1. It could be a false measure when we measure a person's Christianity by how many services he attends; how much money he gives; and whether he can lead a prayer or teach a class, preach a sermon or lead a song, ETC..
 2. The correct measure:
 1. The fruitfulness which results in that man's life from inner convictions and responsible maturity. Matt. 5:16
John 15:8
Gal. 5:22, 23
1 Pet. 2:1, 2

NOTE:

1. It takes God to give the increase and he does not need a lot of promotional machinery with which to bring about the increase. .
 1. God needs men to teach his divine truth in love.
 2. He needs men whose efforts are steeped in prayer... Otherwise no lasting results should be expected.

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