

Where Planning Is Needed

by Titus Edwards

I believe most all of us would agree that where there is little planning, little gets done. We can see this reflected in business. Millions of dollars are spent in research and development that they may plan for new or improved products for the future. Most large companies are making plans now for what they would like to do ten years from now.

Let me suggest to you that we also need planning in the spiritual realm. Here are some areas where planning is needed:

In Our Giving. God does not intend for us to just whip out our billfold on Sunday morning and whatever happens to be left over from the week we give to God. *“So let each one give as he **purposes** in his heart, ...”* (2 Cor. 9:7). To purpose is to plan; to give with forethought and deliberate intention. Many Christians do not give as liberally as they should because they do not plan their giving. Our giving should be planned from the beginning — off the top of our income, not just what we have left over after paying all the bills. Let us all think about our giving and plan out our finances that we can give liberally and sacrificially unto the Lord.

In Choosing A Mate. Young people need to realize that marriage is for life (Rom. 7:1-4; Matt. 19:3-9). It is not something that you get into today and if it does not work out, get out of tomorrow. Yet many people do more planning in buying a car or a house than they do in marrying! No wonder there is so much divorce! No wonder our families are breaking apart! No wonder that even many Christians are having marital difficulties!

Planning for marriage involves first of all being the right kind of person yourself. Then it is important to choose the right kind of mate. Parents need to start when their children are young to teach their kids what their marital responsibilities will be. If they understand the seriousness of marriage and the great impact that their spouse will have on them for the rest of their life, they will choose carefully.

In Appointing Church Officers. There are two problems in this regard that could be helped if more churches did more planning in appointing officers. Some churches go years and years without elders. It may indicate little planning. Churches need to be conscious about working with young and middle-aged men to help them prepare themselves for the eldership. If men do not think about and make plans toward becoming an elder, they will never be qualified later in life! The qualifications for an elder (Titus 1; 1 Timothy 3) are stringent. One does not just wake up later in life and find himself ready to be an elder. He must work at it and toward it. This would help solve another problem: elders who do not do their work properly. A church class to help men prepare themselves to be elders could help them understand what their responsibilities will be anyhow to go about doing their work effectively. Good elders can be cultivated if there is some planning done.

In The Work Of The Church. I am afraid that much of the work we do is done out of tradition, with little planning and evaluation. In many places there is much confusion and disorder. Specific jobs need to be assigned. Methods and procedures need to be established. A thorough job of planning in every phase of what the church does would help to get things done more efficiently. A haphazard approach to the work suggests that it is not taken seriously enough. Let us remember, the plans that we make for the future show our faith in it. Whether you are talking about building a church building or withdrawing from an unfaithful member, planning is needed!

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