

Family Principles of Ministry

1. Discuss: “Which should the church be more like... an organisation or a family?”
2. Now consider the following questions:
 - Do you find yourself hoping that a lot of people will come to a programme, not because you have their best interests at heart, but because you want your programme (and you!) to look successful?
 - Do you choose young people to do a task who will do it most efficiently and effectively as opposed to those who will gain the most from doing it?
 - When looking at leadership potential to you tend to identify those who are good organisers rather than good at relating to other young people and modelling their faith?
 - Do you find yourself thinking more about “the youth ministry” than you do about the people in it?
 - In considering your own future ministry involvement, do you think primarily about what is best for you, than what is best for the people you lead?
 - Do you find yourself measuring your success by the numbers who attend, rather than the lives that are being changed?

The more you ticked, the more you tend to operate with an “organisation” mentality. Which do you personally most need to work on?

Which in your opinion do we as an overall youth ministry need to work on? What do we need to do differently?



Session 1:

A Biblical Philosophy of Ministry in the Local Church

Two stories...

Read through the following stories. What lessons do they teach us in relation to youth ministry?

“Maybe you’ve heard the story about the man and his wife riding down a busy freeway. Her complaints and grumbling come out at almost the same fast speed he is driving. After about twenty minutes, twenty five miles, and twenty-nine insults, this gentleman has had it. He loses it all and screams, “Will you stop nagging me? OK! You’re right! We’re lost! But, you gotta admit we’re making great time!””

“Eight years after being built, a small crack appeared on the 42nd floor of a multi story building. The small crack became larger and soon other cracks appeared. The architect was called but when the managing director of the company went to meet him there was no sign of him anywhere on the 42nd floor. Before long the call came through that the architect was in the 6th basement. The managing director took the lift down to the sixth basement and when he got there he was rather annoyed, and said, “What are you doing in the 6th basement? We have a crack on the 42nd floor.””

The architect replied, “You may have cracks on the 42nd floor, but you don’t have a problem on the 42nd floor. You have a problem in the 6th basement.”

It turned at that the builders, in an attempt to cut costs, had use a lower grade of reinforcing in the foundations.”

A Biblical Philosophy of the Church

1. The following verse talks about Christ in relation to the church? What do you think the implications are of this verse for the way we do youth ministry?

Colossians 1:16-18

2. What picture of the church do each of the following verses present, and what implications does each verse have for the way we do youth ministry?

i. *Ephesians 2:19*

ii. *Ephesians 5:25-27*

iii. *Romans 12:4-5*

3. Which image of the church is particularly significant or meaningful to you? Explain.
4. Which of the three do we most need to work on in our youth ministry in order to be more “Biblical” in how we approach things

A Biblical Philosophy of Ministry

1. Read Ephesians 4:11-13. What do these verses teach us about:

i. What God has done

ii. What God expects His “ministers” to do

iii. What God expects his people to do

iv. What God intends the outcome of ministry to be

2. What points come out of these verses that particularly apply to our group? In other words, what do we need to focus on in order to have a more biblical approach to ministry with young people?