

LESSON EIGHT

THE EVANGELIST'S CONDUCT

The evangelist should remember that his ministry is not just confined to the pulpit. His conduct and attitudes will constantly be under inspection. His mannerisms and personality, his relationship with the pastor and members of the congregation will constantly be counting for or against the message he preaches. People will remember his smile, his friendliness, his warm handshake, etc., long after they have forgotten some of the sermons he preaches.

In lessons eight and nine we are considering some of the things that are important and will contribute to the success of the evangelist's ministry.

A. THE EVANGELIST SHOULD WATCH HIS ATTITUDES:

He will be entertained constantly in different homes. In some churches he may be entertained in a home of luxury and be fed on the best of food. Possibly in the next home he may be given a small bedroom and the bed may be uncomfortable. The food may not be as well prepared and as tasty as he was enjoying previously. The next church may place him in an evangelist's apartment. This apartment may be part of the church and he may have to pack his clothes away on Sunday morning to make room for Sunday School.

Under all conditions and circumstances the evangelist must remain cheerful and thankful. He must never complain and be critical. A sour spirit and an unthankful disposition can kill the revival effort. He must remember that he is serving the Lord and that the Lord is providing for him. He should think of our Lord's example who had no earthly home. If he complains he is actually complaining against the Lord.

The evangelist may be a man of experience preaching for a young pastor whose attitudes and spirit may be wrong. Regardless of his experience and knowledge he must maintain a spirit of humility and cooperation. He must remember that he is laboring under the leadership of the pastor who has the responsibility of the church. Therefore he must cheerfully submit himself to the pastor's decisions and work wholeheartedly in cooperation with the pastor.

B. THE EVANGELIST SHOULD WATCH HIS MANNER OF DRESS:

If the evangelist always remembers that he is an ambassador of Christ, he will have very little difficulty in this manner. He should groom himself and dress in such a manner that no attention is drawn to his clothes.

His hair should be cut; he should be shaven with no side beards. His shoes should be polished and his clothes well pressed. He must be neat, tidy and well groomed. His clothes should be conservative but not drab. Flashy, modern styles of clothing have no place in the pulpit. Whether he can afford it or not, he must not invest too much in clothes.

How can he preach dedication and sacrifice if he wears a different suit each night? How can he preach missions if he dresses in the most expensive suits and shoes? How can he preach a separation from the world if he follows the style of the world in his choice of clothes?

His appearance must exalt Jesus Christ. One of the ways of doing this is to dress in an attractive manner but in a way that no undue attention will be drawn to his clothes.

C. THE EVANGELIST SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE HIS FINANCES:

The evangelist should keep out of debt as much as possible. How can he travel from church to church with faith in God to supply his needs if he is burdened down with debt?

This means that he must be careful about his choice of a car. He is travelling long distances on the highway and he must have a suitable car. However, it is transportation that he needs. An automobile is a status symbol to many people. This is ridiculous. A car is simply a means of transportation. The evangelist should think of safety, comfort and economy, and then buy accordingly. He must be fully persuaded that he will always be able to meet his payments.

Before he accepts an invitation to preach a revival crusade he should have a clear understanding with the pastor regarding finance. If there is a clear understanding before the revival begins, then there will be no dissatisfaction. The writer of these notes sees no harm in having a definite stipulated amount that the evangelist will receive. This is much better than misunderstanding, dissatisfaction or indebtedness.

If it is agreed upon that the evangelist should receive a love offering on Sunday evening, then let the evangelist be fully satisfied and truly thankful for what the Lord has provided. The pastor should see that this offering is supplemented if the offering is small. Also the pastor should make certain that the evangelist receives the entire offering - not just part of it.

During the revival meeting the evangelist will have offerings handed to him. All offerings should be reported to the pastor and under no circumstances should the evangelist receive and retain tithes. These should be refused and given to the pastor.

D. THE EVANGELIST MUST BE PREPARED TO KEEP HIS WORD:

One of the most difficult problems the evangelist has to solve is knowing how to schedule services. He wants to be kept busy and he doesn't want to travel long distances between meetings. He must fit his schedule of meetings to fit the convenience of pastors and to be able to be the greatest possible blessing to the church.

Beside this the evangelist is in the service of the Lord. When he starts a revival crusade he cannot be certain just how the Spirit may move and just when the crusade should conclude. Therefore he should not schedule his meetings more than two or three weeks in advance. Any postponement or cancellation should only come after much prayer, and the notice of these should be given to the pastor concerned well in advance of the meeting concerned. Such postponement should be planned only after consulting with the pastor and getting his permission. The best way is to place a long distance call and talk directly to the pastor.

If the meeting is announced and advertised the evangelist has no choice. He must keep his word and honor his agreement.

E. THE EVANGELIST MUST NOT LISTEN TO NOR CARRY GOSSIP:

The evangelist is in a special position where he can learn much about the conditions in the church and the affairs of the pastor. He must remember that he is there on the King's business, to preach the gospel, and to win souls.

He must keep his nose out of other people's business. He is not there to meddle but to build the Kingdom of God. If matters come to his attention that are choice bits of gossip, he must know how to dismiss them completely from his mind. If he is the type of man who will carry news from one church to the next church, he is one who cannot be trusted. Eventually he will do more harm than he is doing good.

Let us break this down and deal with it under the following four headings:

1. HE MUST NOT LISTEN TO CRITICISM OF THE PASTOR:

In every church there are a few disgruntled Christians who have chips on their shoulders. They will find fault with the evangelist just as readily as they now find fault with the pastor.

The evangelist must refuse to listen to all such faultfinders. Anything he does hear must be completely dismissed from his mind.

2. HE MUST NOT INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH:

He is not there to straighten out the church. This is not his business. He may see things with which he may disagree. He may see many ways in which the affairs of the church may be improved. If he says anything to anyone it must be to the pastor. Here he must be certain that he is being led of the Lord. Otherwise he should keep silent and forget it.

3. HE MUST NOT ACCEPT ANY INVITATIONS TO VISIT THE SAINTS WITHOUT THE PASTOR'S PERMISSION:

If he receives such an invitation, he should thank the person kindly, but say that he will speak to the pastor about it and see if the pastor is free. There may be times that the pastor may encourage the evangelist to visit a home by himself. However, this is definitely the exception. Preferably the pastor should accompany the evangelist. Otherwise the evangelist must refuse all such invitations.

4. HE MUST NOT CARRY NEWS AND GOSSIP TO THE NEXT CHURCH:

The carrier of the "Good News" should never stoop to be a gossip carrier. This is a detestable characteristic and never should be found in the conduct of the dedicated evangelist. Not only must he not carry news but also he must refuse to listen to such news.

LESSON EIGHT

SELF HELP TEST

A. How should an evangelist dress?

B. How should an evangelist handle his finances?

C. With the thought in mind that the evangelist is not in a church to meddle, state FOUR things he must NOT do.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____
