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Reflection of Christian Education in Local Church

Jessie Rayos

Intro to Christian Education

Reflection on Christian Education in Local Church

Christian Education in the Local Church is something that is greatly needed and while on the surface I was not sure that my church was doing a very good job in this area it seems that the Lord has allowed us to develop opportunities for christian education organically as we have been lead by the spirit. I want to explain my perspective of christian education as well as the theological and practical components of what we do followed by a way to review our philosophy on education.

One of the components in our reading this week about the implications of christian education is that a church that is doing a good job in this area is offering a wide variety of educational initiatives. When you offer a wide variety of opportunities you are expanding opportunities for individuals to hear the word of God taught as well as you are providing opportunities for people in your church to use their God given gifts and talents to help people grow in their relationship with the Lord. As a church we have done a great job of providing ample amounts of opportunities for people to hear the word of God taught on a regular basis and in different settings taught be different people. I believe this is one of the keys in christian education that will help a church tremendously but it goes along with the second implication, which is that we must emphasize the Word of God and the Spirit of God. It is not enough just to have a class but classes where you emphasize the importance of the Word of God and teach it instead of just teaching your own ideas. We ask our church to pray

over all of our services, Sunday school classes and small groups that people would have an encounter with God and that the spirit of God would move in a mighty way in there. As we do this we see peoples lives being transformed. I see this in the scriptures as well as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, that he didn't come preaching to them with wise and persuasive words but by teaching the Word of God and with a demonstration of the Spirit. We try to engrain this in all of our teachers so that they know that the power comes from the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

Secondly, I believe that the local church needs to have church education that includes a strong community dynamic. When you do a class it is so helpful to the people in that group to be able to discuss what they are learning with each other. The way this looks like in our church is that we provide fellowship opportunities where people are able to connect with each other. Sometimes as a speaker I have found that you may have said something that was impactful but it does not get into someones heart until the discussion time because the Lord was able to use someone in that group to articulate things in a way that helped them to grasp it at a deeper level. Secondly the different personalities of the group force you to grow in practical ways as you relate to people different than you. In my opinion these are the only two absolutely necessary ingredients when it comes to Christian Education in the local church.

We evaluate our christian education plan by providing opportunities for people to give us feedback. Several times a year we will evaluate our groups and classes and decide if there is any of them that need to be pruned because it is no longer effective. Many times by now people have already voted with their feet and are no longer attending the group. Often times one of our elders will attend the major classes that are being taught so that they can help us evaluate how things are going in those classes. We want to ask a few questions in those meetings to evaluate the class. Is this class focusing on teaching the Word of God? Is the teacher doing a good job? Are they providing ample amounts of time for fellowship to take place? These are the tools that help us to evaluate individual christian education classes and what I believe makes an outstanding program.