

Concerning Campus Work

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Some ... basic principles and the way in which the ministry of our brother **Witness Lee** speaks concerning how to carry out this service to the Lord.

Not Proselytizing but Conducting Ourselves in a Manner Worthy of the Gospel

In 1983 **Brother Lee** told us, “If those whom we contact desire to attend our meetings, we should welcome them, but we must **never try** to proselytize. **Proselytizing** is not an honorable thing. Even though we hope that people will take the way of the Lord’s recovery, **we do not proselytize**.”

- We must **allow the Lord to operate in people** according to His desire (Rom. 9:15)”
 - It is the Lord who adds to the church (Acts 2:47).
 - “let other Christians have their own choice regarding the matter of the church”
- We **conduct** ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel (Phil. 1:27; cf. 2 Cor. 6:3;).

The **truths** in the **New Testament** **include** God, Christ, the Spirit, the believers, the church, the kingdom, and the New Jerusalem. These are the truths in **God’s New Testament economy**.

- We should **not** have the attitude that we use this truth to recruit people.
Rather, we are **presenting** the truths to new believers so that they may know these truths.
- As we present the truth, a believer may have a positive or negative response.
We should **not** be bothered by a negative response.

If someone asks us **where we meet**, **where we fellowship**, we should not be coy or evasive.

- We should not pretend to be someone else.
- We should **be frank** and tell them what we are.
- Whether they would continue to be open to us or whether they would be closed to us is up to them.
- Regardless of their reaction, we still would love them and **not** argue with them.
- We are who we are and should **present the truth** that underpins our practice in the local churches, even if some may misunderstand.
- Our practice is to, as much as depends on us, **diligently keep the oneness of the Body of Christ**, which is the oneness of the Spirit, whether other believers choose to meet in the local churches or not (Eph. 4:3-4; Rom. 12:18). If they reject us, the fissure in fellowship is their responsibility and is beyond our control.

Our Campus Organizations

The practice of the campus organizations started by students who meet in the local churches is to **register** with their respective schools with generic and **inclusive names** such as “**Christians on Campus**” or “**Christian Students**.” ...This practice of registering a campus club with a generic name is consistent with **the local churches’ practice of not taking a name**. ...Take a generic and inclusive descriptor that reflects what *you* are. *You* are not “the church” on the campus, and it would be inappropriate for *you* to register as such... Moreover, *you* are **open to all Christians** on their respective campuses, whether they choose to meet in a local church or not.

Our Burden—Gospel, Truth, and Life

Our burden in laboring on college campuses is threefold—to **preach** the gospel, to **teach** the truth, and to **minister** Christ as life (Mark 16:15; Gal. 4:16; 2 Cor. 3:6). We emphasize campus work because that is where young people congregate, and historically the Lord has initiated fresh moves with young people. ...

...aspire to closely follow the **pattern** of the **Lord Jesus**, of the apostles, and of those the Lord has given to us as models. They -

- **preached** the gospel to unbelievers (Luke 4:18; Acts 2:14-40; 1 Cor. 1:17),
- **taught** the truth (Luke 20:21; 1 Tim. 2:7),
- **ministered** Christ as life to the believers that they might grow in the Lord (John 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:6).
- **presented** to people the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel (Eph. 3:8)
- **brought** them to know Christ as their life (Col. 3:4) to know the cross as the center of God's work (1 Cor. 2:2).
- **travailed** until Christ was formed in the believers (Gal. 4:19)
- **labored** to present every man full-grown in Christ (Col. 1:29).

...our burden should be to serve the Lord according to the pattern of the **New Testament** ministry.

Our Way—Prayer, the Spirit, and the Word

Our way of laboring must also be pure. We should not trust in any shortcuts such as methods or gimmicks. Rather, we should seek to **carry out** the Lord's burden through **prayer**, the **Spirit**, and the **Word**.

Take the unique way of prayer, the Spirit, and the Word. Do not think of anything else, and do not use any gimmicks. Get yourself constituted, qualified, and equipped. Then go out in your prayer with the Spirit presenting the Word. Many will get convinced. The seeking people are eager to listen to someone who can tell them what the reality of human life is. This is what they need, and this is what we have. We need many saints to go and present the divine truths that the Lord has shown us to the needy people. Do not think of taking a way other than prayer, the Spirit, and the Word. Any other way will cause dissension and division.

The Need—Genuine Concern and Proper Patterns

Every aspect of our contact with people, including our concern for them, should be genuine... As long as we have the proper concern for people, we are well on our way to be qualified to be used of God for their salvation."

As we contact younger believers, we need to **nourish** them **not only** with the truths in the Word of God **but also** with a **living that is a pattern** (1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7) ... To give the new believers and young ones a lot of teaching is not the proper way to take care of them. The **proper way** to foster them is to show them a pattern. By showing them a pattern, you water them, supply them, nourish them, and cherish them. ... According to **John 15**, **fruit-bearing** is an organic term pointing to the **overflow of life** (vv. 2, 4-5, 8). This means that fruit-bearing depends **not only** on our work **but even more** on our **person and our living**. If we are proper in our person and our living, that will be reflected in our work and **will draw seeking ones** to imitate us and **to become patterns** to others themselves (1 Thes. 1:6-7).