

## **Fellowship with the Parents and Serving ones (1)**

**Tlalnepantla, Mexico – March 25, 2011**

1. The parents and serving ones should endeavor to become proper patterns in the raising up of the children and young people - 1 Tim.4:12; 1 Pet. 5:3; Tit. 2:7
2. We should realize that the Christian life is a life of sowing; whatever we do is a kind of sowing, whether to the flesh or to the Spirit – Gal. 6:7-8:
  - a. Whatever we say and do with our children is a seed sown into them.
  - b. In the church life we are constantly sowing small seeds; to be careful regarding our sowing is to be watchful regarding our daily living.
3. Above all else, Paul raised up the young believers by presenting a life-pattern to them, a pattern of a proper living; this pattern was in reality Paul himself - 1 Thes.1:5, 2:10, 2 Thes. 3:7-9.
4. Doing the work of fostering, shepherding people, caring for them with tenderness (cherishing them) and nourishing them gives them a proper pattern; Paul nourished his spiritual children with his own living out of Christ - 1 Thes. 2:1-12, cf. 2 Cor. 1:23-2:24; 1 Cor. 9:22; Acts 20:28:
5. The parents are patterns, examples to their children; whatever the parents are, the children will be also; to imitate is part of growing up; the children grow by imitating their parents - cf. 2 Thes. 3:9, Heb. 13:7.
6. To give the new believers and the young ones a lot of teachings is not the proper way to care for them; the proper way to raise them up is to show them a pattern; by showing them a pattern you water them, supply them, nourish them and cherish them – 2 Co. 3:6, 1 Cor. 8:1b; 1 Thes. 2:8.

(Fellowship by brother Mark Raabe)

## **Fellowship with the Parents and Serving ones (2)**

**Tlalnepantla, Mexico – March 26, 2011**

1. Christ is shepherding people in His heavenly ministry, and we need to cooperate with him by shepherding people also; without shepherding, our work for the Lord cannot be effective – Heb.13:20-21; John 21:15-17.
2. To shepherd means to give tender, all-inclusive care to the flock; to shepherd means to take care of all of the needs of the sheep - Ezek. 34:3-4; Acts 20:28.
3. Peter charged the elders to shepherd the flock of God according to God; “according to God” means to live God - 1 Pet. 5:1-3.
4. To shepherd “according to God” means to shepherd according to what God is in His attributes - Rom. 9:15-16; 11:22, 33; Eph. 2:7; 1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:12.
5. To shepherd “according to God” means to shepherd according to God’s nature, desire, way and glory, and not according to our own preferences, interests, purposes and disposition.
6. We need to feed the flock of God according to the living and forgiving heart of the Father and according to the seeking and shepherding spirit of the Son – Luke 15: 4-24, 32.
7. Our natural tendency is to not shepherd others, but to rather criticize them and regulate them; whenever we criticize someone we loose the position to being able to care for them.
8. Our natural tendency is to regulate others and place requirements upon them according to our own selves, instead of cherishing them and nourishing them according to God.

(Fellowship by brother Mark Raabe)

## Fellowship with the Parents and Serving Ones (3)

Tlalnepantla – May 20, 2011

- I. There is not a definite way to take care of the children's work; there should not be only one aspect to the children's work:**
  - A. There should be many locations for the children's work, meetings can be held at different times, and we can use different methods to conduct the children's meetings; there should also be many goals, and the teaching material should also cover many aspects.
  - B. The way to carry out the children's meetings depends on the brothers taking the lead in the children's work.
- II. The Bible shows us very clearly that in the beginning all the believers had the church life in their homes – Acts 2:41; 5:42; 20:20; 1 Cor. 16:19:**
  - A. The unit of salvation is not an individual person but a household; God doesn't save just individuals, He saves the whole household – Exo. 12:3-4; Gen. 7:1; Acts 16:29-34
  - B. To meet in the homes is organic; if we only have a meeting hall with a definite, regular schedule, this will bring the entire church into the "box" of organization and causes us to lose the organic ability- Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Phil. 2
  - C. Meeting in the believers' homes is for all the members of Christ to function; in any big meeting it is hard for the saints to function, but in a small meeting with four or five, or two or three, even a small boy or girl could function – Acts 2:21, 46; 5:42; 12:12; Matt. 18:20.
  - D. We need to open up our home, we do not need to meet with others first; we can initiate our home meeting by meeting with our family members.
- III. In preparing lessons, we need children's lessons that build up their humanity:**
  - A. We must be built up as proper human beings; to build up a proper humanity is the way to prepare them to be the best material to receive God's grace – Rom. 9:21, 23; 2 Tim. 2:20-21; 1 Pet. 2:5; Matt. 16:18.
  - B. Because children are too young to behave according to Christ, they must be taught to behave according to culture; children are preserved by culture while they are growing up – Rom. 13:1; Gal. 3:23.
  - C. In caring for their children, Christian parents need to preach the law to them; we should not first preach grace to the children; we must build them up with proper ethics and morality – 2 Tim. 3:15; Rom. 13:1; Gal. 3:24.
- IV. To compile material for the teachers, we need a number of brothers who know the truth and are also skilled in writing – 1 Tim. 3:15; 2:4; Titus 1:1:**
  - A. We should give the five and six year olds one thing and the seven and eight year olds something else; we need some brothers and sisters who understand this principle to prepare the lessons – 1 John 2:12-13.
  - B. This requires the careful work of the brothers who compile the teaching material so that the children do not receive premature knowledge; we must be careful not to give them a religious thought or concept – 1 Tim. 1:4; Mark 4:8,11.
  - C. We should prepare three levels of materials: elementary, intermediate and advanced:
    1. The material for the elementary level should be entirely from a child's perspective; when we speak of man, we should ask the children whether the man is the same as a dog, a cat, or a tiger – cf. Gen. 1-2:7.
    2. Gradually, as we proceed to the intermediate level, we can give the children a little more Bible knowledge; we can convey to them the deep impression that there is a God in the universe, that man fell and committed sin, and that the Lord Jesus is our Savior – Gen. 3:17-19, 24; Matt. 1:21; Isa. 7:14.

3. Then when the children proceed to an advanced level, they will almost be ready to follow the messages in the big meetings; the children do not need too much doctrine; they only need a general knowledge of the truth – 2 Pet. 3:18b; Eph. 4:15; 1 Cor. 8:1.
4. When many of us were young, we received too much knowledge that only damaged us; we were given many stories, but we were not given the proper verses in a practical way – 1 Cor. 3:2; Titus 3:9; 1 Cor. 8:2-3.