

HELPING ONE ANOTHER

INTRODUCTION

- A. It has been said, "Necessity is the mother of invention."
- B. Just so, evaluation is the mother of improvement.
- C. Here are some illustrations that prove this true.
 - 1. The evolvement of the automobile proves it.
 - 2. The education of children proves it.
 - 3. Marriages are evaluated and improvement comes.
- D. When we evaluate our Christianity, we often resolve to improve.
 - 1. Read 2 Corinthians 13:5-7.

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified.

I. DEFINITION OF EVALUATION

- A. We might say that evaluation is "*one friend helping another friend see where he has been, see where he is, and see where he ought to go.*"
- B. Evaluation is not only good for checking up on our discipleship; it is also good for other areas as well.
 - 1. It is good for our families.
 - 2. It is good for our jobs.
 - 3. It is good for all areas of life.
- C. Let us notice a few passages.
 - 1. Consider Proverbs 15:22, 23. The key word is *timing*.
 - 2. Consider Proverbs 18:17. The key word is *objectivity*.
 - a. When we talk about evaluation, we are not talking about just sheer flattery, compliments, etc.

b. Evaluation will not always be compliments and flowery exaggerations of well-doing.

3. Consider Proverbs 20:18. The key word is *guidance*, advice or counsel.

4. Consider Proverbs 27:17, 19. The key phrase is *personal interest*.

D. From these key words (*timing, objectivity, guidance, and personal interest*),

define evaluation as "*timely and objective appraisal given for guidance by someone who has a personal interest in you.*"

1. There needs to be evaluation in our lives.

2. We need to think often about where we have been, where we are, and where we want to go.

3. Disciples are to do just that to other disciples.

II. ILLUSTRATIONS OF EVALUATION

A. There were three major ways Jesus evaluated His disciples.

1. He shared insights.

2. He identified blind spots.

3. He gave open rebuke.

B. Notice an example of insights He shared.

1. Read Mark 6:30-31.

a. Our attitude would be, "The harvest is white!" or "Strike while the iron is hot."

b. Jesus said, "Take a break. Rest for a while."

c. We often are so busy chopping wood that we do not take time to sharpen our axe.

d. We need to evaluate! We often become involved in so many activities that we do not do an effective job.

e. Jesus helped His disciples to evaluate their time schedule.

f. Jesus knew the disciples needed rest, and that is what they did.

C. Now let us notice how He identified **blind spots** in His disciples' lives.

1. Read Luke 10:17–20.

a. Jesus never joked about the devil!

b. He never joked about satanic power!

c. These disciples were treating this thing too lightly, and their priorities were confused.

D. Next we notice how He gave **direct rebuke**.

1. Read Mark 8:31–33.

2. Jesus did this when it was necessary.

III. TECHNIQUES OF EVALUATION

A. Let us choose our timing carefully.

B. Let us maintain our objectivity.

C. Let us guide and advise.

D. Let us say it with love and personal interest because we are seeking their best interest.

CONCLUSION

A. So, what is evaluation?

B. It is a timely and objective appraisal given for guidance because of one who is personally interested in another person.

C. We can strengthen each other through this method.

D. Let us decide today to help others to be more Christlike.