

IMPROVING OUR SERVICE

Lesson 1

Our Responsibility to Improve

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Improvement is Needed.

1. This is a “men’s training class.” Can men be trained? Can men improve their service? Yes! It may be harder because adults have bad habits that are hard to break. But, it can be done.
2. Many local congregations are faced with the problem of a shortage of men who are both qualified and willing to participate in the worship service of the local church.
3. One day you may need to serve in a way you are not serving now. We all need to be “ready unto every good work” (Tit. 3:1), and these lessons will help you to be ready.

B. Improvement is Important.

1. What a great responsibility and privilege it is to serve the Lord’s congregation!
2. Improvement is taught in the NT with the following words: “grow(th)” (2 Cor. 10:15; Eph. 2:21; 4:15; 2 Thess. 1:3; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18), “add” (2 Pet. 1:5ff), “increase” (Lk. 17:5; 2 Cor. 9:10; Eph. 4:16; Col. 2:19; 1 Thess. 3:12), and “abound(ing)” (Rom. 15:13; 1 Cor. 14:12; 15:58; 2 Cor. 8:7; 9:8; Phil. 1:9; 1 Thess. 3:12; 4:1, 10; 2 Thess. 1:3; 2 Pet. 1:8).

C. Improvement of Our Service Improves Our Worship.

1. Worship is to be effective - “in spirit” - and acceptable - “in truth” - (Jn. 4:24). Poor public service in the assembly can turn acceptable worship into ineffective worship.
2. Worship is to be edifying (Heb. 10:24-25). Poor public service in the assembly does not edify.
3. Worship is to be orderly (1 Cor. 14:40). Poor public service in the assembly is not orderly.

D. Improvement Starts with Taking Inventory.

1. What abilities do I now have and what abilities do I want to develop?
2. What do I want to accomplish in this course of study? What is my goal or objective?
3. What do I need to pray about?

E. Improvement Comes with Participation.

1. Come to the class and review the material. Ask questions and offer suggestions during the class.
2. Volunteer for new assignments and don’t be embarrassed by your mistakes. Have confidence in yourself and remember that this congregation is eager for you to succeed.

II. A WORD ABOUT THIS CLASS.**A. Why This Class?**

1. This class is designed to...
 - a) Help you start serving in a way you have not served before.
 - b) Help you improve the service you already perform.
 - c) Help you be convinced that you are neither too old, nor too young to serve.
2. This class is not designed to...
 - a) Embarrass or ridicule you. We are all here to help each other.
 - b) See how much you don't know. We want to see how much we are willing to learn.
 - c) Give you some "busy work". We want visible results of improvement in the worship service.

B. Essentials for a Successful Class.

1. First, a desire to serve.
 - a) If you really want to serve, you can. We are not discussing impossible tasks.
 - b) If, however, the desire to serve is not there, you will not put forth the effort to serve, and this study will be a failure for you.
2. Second, a desire to learn.
 - a) Some in this class will be learning new things.
 - b) Some in this class will be reinforcing what they already know.
3. Third, a desire to improve.
 - a) The "know-it-all" attitude will not help you improve.
 - b) The "I'm fine where I'm at" attitude will not help you improve.
 - c) The "I can't do it" attitude will not help you improve.

III. A WORD ABOUT SERVING.**A. God's Servants Are Ordinary Folk Needing Improvement.**

1. OT example: Moses (Ex. 3-4).
2. NT example: 12 Apostles (2 Cor. 4:7).

B. Nothing to Do?

1. Beware of the sin of do-nothingness (Mt. 25:14ff; Lk. 10:25ff; 13:6ff; Jn. 15:1ff).
2. Get out of the rut of little or no service! Stop procrastinating!

C. Basic Requirements for Service.

1. Authority (1 Cor. 11:3).
2. Competence (Rom. 12:4-8; Jas. 3:1).

3. Proper Example (Rom. 2:19-24; 1 Tim. 4:12).
4. Purpose (Psa. 96:8-9; Mt. 6:1ff; Col. 3:23).
5. Preparation (Ezra 7:10; Acts 4:13; 1 Tim. 4:13-16; 2 Tim. 2:15).
6. Willingness, motivation, enthusiasm, and courage (2 Cor. 8:12; Philemon 14).
7. Opportunities (Esther 4:14; Lk. 13:8-9).
8. Perseverance (1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9).

IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. Let's Go Out Now and Improve Our Service.
- B. Class Motto: "I Will Try To Do Better!"