

From Brotherhood to Baptist Men on Mission

Scripture

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^a the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The text I just read is known as what? It is known as "The Great Commission."

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

The text I just read is often referred to as the mission of the New Testament church.

Introduction

Would you patronize a restaurant who served good food only 16% of the time? Would you fly with an airline that had a 16% chance of delivering your luggage on time? Would you invest your money in a business venture that had only a 16% chance of being successful? The answer to all three questions is an emphatic "No!"

Then tell me this. Why are we satisfied with the fact that less than 16% of the men in our church are involved in discipleship? A disciple is one who is called to walk with Jesus, equipped to live like Jesus and sent to work for Jesus. Less than 16% of the men in the average Baptist church are involved in any type of discipleship. Notice that I am not saying 16% of men in general but rather 16% of the men in the church.

This means 84% of the men on the roles of our churches are not involved in any type of discipleship. Less than 16% of the men do anything for Christ or serve in any capacity to reach others for Christ.

We must address this problem. America is in desperate need of Godly men who love Jesus Christ and desire to serve Him. Look around you and you will see the evidence of this awful statistic everywhere. Today more than ever before, we need men who are willing to STAND UP and REACH OUT for our Lord.

Who is it that needs to address this immediate need? It is you, the men of the Baptist Church. The time has come for this group to take a leadership role in reaching men for Christ and disciple men to be "Men of God."

Brotherhood is something that was started many years ago by Southern Baptist. Since 1997 it has no longer been called "Brotherhood." The name was changed in 1997 to "Baptist Men on Mission" to better reflect the mission and purpose of the organization. The organization falls under the coordination of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The time has come for us to make the change too. The time has come for us to really address the spiritual needs of men and get busy doing the work of the great commission.

It is time for this group to become much more than a monthly breakfast club. It is time for us to understand the Great Commission, commit to it and be God's instruments of change.

1. We Need Men's Bible Study

Have you noticed that we don't even bring our Bibles to Brotherhood breakfast? We need to have regular weekly Men's Bible Study where men grow in their relationship with God.

The convention offers many excellent resources for men's Bible study. One in particular is called **Men's Fraternity**. It is a series of three one-year long studies, beginning with **The Quest for Authentic Manhood**, followed by **Winning at Work and Home**, and ends with **The Great Adventure**. Men's Fraternity provides men with an encouraging process that teaches them how to live lives of authentic manhood as modeled by Jesus Christ and directed by the Word of God.

2. We Need Men's Outreach

Some men never set foot in the church. Some men never come to worship and certainly never participate in worship. I know that is a reflection of their spiritual life. It is a direct reflection of the lack of a walk with our Lord. However, that does not mean those men are not searching.

We need to develop events that reach out to men and expose them to other men who are walking with the Lord and relying on Him for guidance.

Our goal should be to move men from being outsiders to insiders. When they become insiders, we are able to expose them to the gospel and the joy of walking with Christ.

3. We Need Men's Mission Work

Christianity is not just a faith. It is not just a belief. Christianity is faith in action. A Christian cannot grow by keeping His faith to himself. We must share our faith and share the love we have discovered in God's Grace.

Sharing our faith and sharing His love doesn't mean you have to go out and preach or knock on doors. We can share our faith in many ways. We can do work for the needy. We can involve ourselves in all sorts of work that communicates our faith and love for Christ.

We need to be involving men in missions and reaching out to share our faith. We need to involve men in putting their talents and skills to work to minister to others in the community and beyond this community.

Conclusion

I challenge you today to become a completely different organization. I challenge you to become an outreach organization rather than an inwardly oriented organization. I challenge you turn to God's Word and then out of love reach out. Reach out to recruit other men, reach out to minister to others by putting your talents to work.

This cannot be done by one man. It cannot be done by me and it cannot be done by Bob Haney alone. This will require organization and the participation of many of you all working together planning, organizing and sharing in responsibility.

Ask God to transform this group into what He would have you to be. Ask God to give you direction and the faith to be obedient.

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