
HOW TO FIND A MENTOR

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INTRODUCTION:

1. What is mentoring?
 - i. The word “Mentor” was originally a character from Greek mythology who was a friend and advisor to Odysseus as well as the teacher of his own son, Telemachus.
 - ii. Also, rumored to be a city in NE Ohio, somewhere around Cleveland.
 - iii. The word literally means “adviser” and comes down to us meaning a wise and loyal adviser, a teacher or coach.

2. Types of Mentoring Relationships
 - i. Internship
 - ii. Apprenticeship
 - iii. On-the-job training

3. Spiritual Mentoring Relationship
 - i. Jesus and Apostles
 - ii. Preacher-Training (Paul-Timothy to Modern Day)
 - iii. Song Leading Classes
 - iv. Personal Work Class
 - v. Teacher Training, Team Teaching
 - vi. Deacons can be mentored by elders
 - vii. All of the above are, in some measure, applications of 2 Tim. 2:2, where the Biblical mandate for mentoring is found.

DISCUSSION:

- I. THE NEED FOR IT
 - A. **We Need Each Other’s Help**
 1. Bible emphasizes the “one another’s”, the family closeness that sees to each other’s needs (50x).
 2. With guidance and help from others, we can realize the best that is in us.
 3. Mentoring is the pinnacle of sharing with others with not only the protégé benefiting but also the mentor.
 4. We truly stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before. Their experience, wisdom, insight and their personality are all added to our own abilities and talents.
 5. The Wisdom literature of the Bible is full of encouragement to learn from others. Eccl. 4:9-10; Prov. 27:17 – “As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” Prov. 24:6 – “...in a multitude of counselors there is safety” (cf. Pr. 15:22). John Maxwell relates a story in his book, “Developing The Leaders Around You” about two men who had competed against each other in a horse pull event. The winner pulled 4,500 lbs. while the runner-up pulled 4,400

lbs. But when pulling together as a combined team, they pulled 12,000 lbs. (pp. 11-12)!

6. Mentoring is like a talent, experience and knowledge pool that people can draw from like water from a well.
7. Mentoring allows us to be part of the “fast track” for effective service in the kingdom. Good elders would never be in short supply if people took more seriously the job of mentoring.
8. Remember that ONE is the loneliest number. Gen. 2:18; Num. 11:14

B. Ways in Which We Benefit

1. Business studies conclude, “Influential mentors were second in importance only to education as a factor in their career success.”
2. Three decades ago, Harvard Business Review claimed “Everyone Who Makes It Has a Mentor.”
3. Mentors can help you avoid the mistakes that they made in their work.
4. Mentors can provide you with great feedback in a protected and safe environment.
5. Mentors can give you great self-confidence by showing you how to do your job and then by letting you do your job.
6. In summary, we can do more than we are doing, better than we are doing it, if we take the time to pick-up along the way all the experience and lessons that others have to offer.

II. HOW TO FIND ONE

A. Eph. 4:11-16 – Ideally, mentors find you (w/God’s help – Acts 8:26-35).

1. Christ gave gifts to the church for the purpose of growth of the body, which of course, occurs in the individual saint (v. 16).
2. The list of “gifts” mentioned in v. 11 need to passing along their “gift” to others as per 2 Tim. 2:2.
3. Jesus intended this too, as seen in Mt. 28:18-20. The apostles were to teach the disciples, “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” We should all be engaged in that process.
4. If each generation of elders, teachers and preachers, etc. would be taking the time now to train people for when they are no longer able to serve, the church would never be without the people we need.

B. But, you may have to find your own.

1. First, find out what it is you want to do or do better in the kingdom and then find a person who is already doing that.
2. Realize that God will hold you responsible for what talents and skills He has given you and that He expects you to grow those for His glory. – Mt. 25:14-28; Eph. 4:16
3. Every training class that is offered at your local church is a great opportunity to improve your service skills. If they don’t have any, suggest them.
4. Most folks would be flattered to be asked to mentor you and would tickled at the prospect of passing along their experience to another.

5. It is a good idea to have more than one. Carol Bartz (CEO of Autodesk), advises people, “to build a mosaic of experts and guides that will cover each of the areas where you need specific information and advice.”
6. Jean Otte of Women Unlimited, a mentoring organization, emphasizes that “you don’t need a single mentor helping you throughout a career; you need a ment-set that allows you to learn from those around you.”

CONCLUSION:

In summary, nothing describes the church any better than that. As a family, as a body, as a team, we are always learning from each other. If we really are aware enough of what is going on week after week in our assemblies and Bible studies and if we are taking time and opportunity to serve others outside of the assembly along side our fellow Christians, we can learn a lot in a short period of time.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. Be Your Own Mentor, by Shelia Wellington & Catalyst; Random House, NY, 2001.
2. Developing The Leaders Around You, by John Maxwell.
3. Mentoring Leaders: Wisdom For Developing Character, Calling & Competency, by Carson Pue; Baker Books, 2005. (Digested article featured in Crosswalk.com entitled *Mentor Leaders to Impact Future*.)

Questions:

1. Why do you think more mentoring isn't being done in the church today?

2. Write down as many mentoring relationships that you can think of that are bound in the Bible.

3. Which one do you think was the best? Tell why.

4. Which one was the worst? Tell why.

5. Share with us some of your mentoring experiences. Give one or two lessons that you learned about the process.

6. The mentor's Mentor is Jesus himself. Comment briefly on what exactly He did.

7. How could your local church benefit by some more mentoring relationships?

8. What are some dangers in mentoring relationships?

9. Most books on mentoring are written for business applications, how to get ahead, etc. What is different about mentoring in the kingdom?

10. List 5 qualities or characteristics that you would want in a mentor?