

Talking Points for Basic Lessons on the Proper Church Life (“Family Training”)

Introduction

1. In the history of the Lord’s move in Northern California in the last 5 years, beginning in 2014, the Lord has had a new beginning among us. After preliminary fellowship that year, we had 2 years of training of the leading brothers (SEROT), and then last year a general perfecting of burdened saints in life matters, mainly stressing calling on the name of the Lord and praying His Word. Now we are going on to broaden this for all the saints, as it says in Eph. 4:12, “For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ.” The time has come to perfect all the saints to build up the local churches where they meet in Northern California.
2. Therefore we need a training to perfect the saints, and the best way is to have family training as suggested by Bro Lee as seen in excerpt below.
3. For the sake of the one move of Lord in Northern California, a factor of great blessing, we feel it would be best if all the churches again follow the same line and direction in such a training. Hence, even though this family training is carried out in different localities, the burden, material, and line are all the same so we would have the morale and one accord. We can carry out the Lord’s move from strength to strength.
4. One main need is to educate the saints to see and practice a proper church life, based on the Scriptures and the God-ordained way, and according to the speaking of the ministry. It is also with a background of what we have learned from our practice of the church life over decades in the Lord’s recovery. Thus, we have given the title of this family training, “Basic Lessons on the Proper Church Life.”
5. The training will be carried out by brothers in the local churches and clusters of churches directly, and with a view to reaching as many saints as possible so they can profit from it.
6. For the practical implementation of this training, we need first to respond by prayer for such a training and for the Lord’s continuous move in Northern California. Second, each saint should sanctify and consecrate themselves to take part in this training and to practice the things covered in the training.

Ministry excerpt from Bro Lee in a talk about family training

A CHURCH FAMILY TRAINING

The last half hour of the Lord’s table should be devoted to another training, which could be called a church family training...We can train our family just like the mothers daily read some books to their children...If the elders would give these types of lessons...this would impress the saints and build them up in the knowledge of the truth.

THE ISSUE OF TRAINING

I believe the issue of this kind of training will be quite promising. Through this kind of training, most of the saints would be filled with the knowledge of the truth. When they need to talk to people about the gospel, they will have the utterance, the expression, and the material. They will not need to prepare anything. When the need comes, they will be able to teach the saved ones the truth. When the time comes they will also be able to minister life to the seeking Christians who do not meet with us. They will also be enabled to preach the gospel to the unsaved. Then it will be easy for the church to encourage all the saints in the offices, in the schools, in the neighborhoods, and among their relatives, to either preach the gospel, teach the truth, or minister life. This will be the living testimony of the Lord Jesus. (*Elders’ Training*, Book 3, Chap.13, pp. 148-149)

Overview of the Lessons

- **A new foundation for the church life:**
 - A main burden is to uplift the church life to raise both the quality and the proper experience of the church life.
 - We need to bring in the same view of all aspects of the church life and have a common foundation for the church life.
- **A continual perfecting in many matters:** Our burden is to build up a robust church life, a proper church life, a normal church life in a very practical way.
- **An emphasis on practice:** As we pursue the lessons, we will educate the whole church concerning the basic church practice.
 - More practice will be more impact; many points are familiar but we all need to enter into the practice.
 - We aim to educate the saints for all the basic church practices.
 - The stress is on practice, not just spiritual revelation or truth or life matters. We must practice these things both individually and corporately.
 - Phil. 4:9: “The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.”
 - 1 Tim. 4:15: “Practice these things; be in them, that your progress may be manifest to all.”
- **A proper model of the church life:** Even though many saints know most of the lessons, they will get refreshed to have a clear vision as we move into a new stage.
 - 1 Thes. 1:7: “So that you became a pattern to all those who believe in Macedonia and Achaia.”
 - We need to build a proper vessel for the church life to contain new ones.
 - We all need to see a clear vision together.
 - Especially our young ones and the new generation of saints need to have this vision.

Practical Implementation

- It is recommended that the lessons be shared on LD morning, so no additional meeting time is needed. We want all the saints to be blessed by this training.
 - The schedule may be adjusted to accommodate a class lasting approximately 45-50 minutes of sharing on the lessons.
 - As an example, a LD schedule might be: 10:00-10:40 am—LT; 10:40-11:20—prophesying; 11:20-12:00—class. This should also show the saints the need to come to LD meeting early.
 - We want as many saints as possible to participate.
 - It is also best if the sharing in the class is locally recorded for those who miss a lesson, and we would encourage the saints to take notes.
- There would be 3 lessons presented each month, one per LD, with a review on any additional LDs.
 - We plan to start with two series of lessons in May and June, and then there will be a break for the Summer Training.
 - We should encourage the saints to plan to come every time, at least for the duration of a series, two or three months at a time.
 - The lesson material can be used for fellowship among the saints: after a prayer meeting, in small group fellowship, in 2s or 3s, etc.
- There is no registration necessary.
 - There is a minimal cost for the material. How the cost of materials will be borne is up to the locality.
 - We can make the local recordings and material available even to those who don't attend on LD to cover as many saints as possible.