

The Navigators Relationship to the Local Church

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I. Introduction.

A. Discovering a philosophy of the ministry for the ministry.

1. It was found that determining the universals was essential.
2. This however is not an easy task - for instance, Bible study cannot be universal, but Scripture memory can. Not every culture is literate.

B. Issues that came up.

2. Non-staff motivated Navigators are not motivating.
3. There is an inferiority complex about the relationship to the church.
3. There is a confused image as to the ultimate character of the navigators

II. Explaining the inferiority complex with the relationship of the Navigators to the church.

A. God has worked through history through the priests and the prophets.

1. The priest's job has been to minister to the family of God.
2. The prophet's job was to evangelize and keep the priesthood and government pure.

B. In the early church God worked through the pope, the priesthood, and lay people who established lay orders.

1. Today there are many Catholic lay orders individually responsible to the pope.
2. This was a very efficient organization.

C. After the Reformation all the responsibilities began to fall upon the local churches among Protestants.

1. It took two hundred years for the first Protestant missionary to be sent.
2. But God was working through called movements that corresponded to the prophets and the orders.
3. The great majority of the overseas work has been done through movements.

D. Working together.

1. The secret of the arch: the foundation.

a. It is solid because it has the same foundation - Jesus Christ.

2. The distinctive of the arch: the capstone.

a. The Navigators do not have a monopoly on an interest in the Word of God, Christian growth and follow up, yet the Navigators are distinctive in these points according to Christian leaders.

b. The capstone of the Navigator ministry is reproduction. One must recognize the distinctive of their own ministry, but they must also respect the distinctive of others.

c. The distinctiveness of the church is ministry to the family of God. It is not the responsibility of the church to do everything the movement is doing. If a church is going to operate effectively in outside areas they cannot do so with the machinery of the church alone.

III. Discussion.

A. Christianity is the movement and the rest are sub movements within.

B. The church has a responsibility to preserve and protect doctrine; the Navigators do not dictate the fine details of doctrine.

C. Communication is key in inter-movement dialogue.

D. When questioned about the authority of a movement, it is important to point out that God has laid authority on a man throughout the history of his activity among his people.

E. The reason that a believer needs the church above and beyond a parachurch ministry is that it is a cradle to the grave program, and it is responsible for administering the sacraments.

F. God raised up a man or men to meet the needs of the church that the it was not responsible for.

G. Communication usually breaks down with the church with doctrinal issues or public relations.

H. The Navigator needs a broader experience through the church.

IV. The emerging image of the Navigators through community ministry.

A. Community ministry is the ministry.

B. Currently there is greater success through women's ministry because there is a greater degree of affinity among them. If you are looking for a medium for powerful communication you take a group of people that has the greatest affinity. This was true for the Navigators, which started among the military.