

A How-To Guide for Mentoring Another Christian

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Mentor: One who binds himself to answer for another; one who is responsible for another's default.

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Introduction

Every new member in your cell group needs a Mentor. Your cell leader will prayerfully select a Mentor for him or her. If you are approached to undertake that ministry, this book will be very valuable to you. Read it carefully, praying for insights that will deepen your own walk with the Lord through helping another person. Use it as a reference book during the weeks you mentor.

This book will help you whether your Protégé is someone you already know or someone you are now meeting for the first time.

If your Protégé is a new believer, you will help him or her through the new believer's material. Some material for new Christians have a mentor's guide at the back. These guides provide clear direction for your weekly times together.

If your Protégé is not a new believer, you begin your Mentor-Protégé relationship by sharing material that addresses Christian values.

The Mentor-Protégé relationship does not last forever. After three or four months, your relationship will change. You will minister together as partners, sharing your faith with unbelievers as you learn together proven ways to lead unbelievers to Jesus. At that time, you will also help your Protégé become a Mentor of another incoming person in your cell group. May God anoint you for this new stage of ministry as you begin to nurture another Christian!

**USE THIS BOOK AS A GUIDE AS YOU SERVE AS A MENTOR
FOR THE FIRST TIME.**

**MEET TOGETHER WEEKLY TO DISCUSS WHAT YOUR PROTÉGÉ IS LEARNING
IN TIME SPENT WITH GOD AND IN THE WORD.**

**YOU WILL THEN BECOME A PARTNER WITH YOUR PROTÉGÉ AS YOU
BEGIN TO REACH UNBELIEVERS.**



**From him the whole body, joined and held together by
EVERY SUPPORTING LIGAMENT, grows and builds
itself up in love, as each part does its work.
(Ephesians 4:16)**

Chapter 1:

The Mentor's Lifestyle

Thoughtfully read this Scripture passage. As you do, find yourself in it. Where are you described?

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Here are some of the categories mentioned. Which of them would you place yourself in at this moment?

1. Mature servants, called “apostles,” “prophets,” “evangelists,” “pastors,” and “teachers.”
2. Mature Christians who have entered into the “fullness of Christ.”
3. Infants who are blown around by every wind of teaching.

You probably placed yourself somewhere between the second and the third categories. You're not exactly an infant, but you also would not say you are a mature Christian. There is a fourth category in this scripture passage that should precisely define your present condition. Underline it in your own Bible so you will remember it:

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Sometimes we tend to think of “full-time Christian workers” as the ministers, but that's not what Ephesians 4:11-16 says. Those who are most

mature are to become the servants of the Body of Christ. The members of that body are to be *supporting ligaments*.

The New Webster's Dictionary of the English Language defines "ligament" as:

A band of strong fibrous tissue connecting bones at a joint, or serving to hold in place and support body organs. What ties or unites one thing or part to another; a bond.

YOU ARE A SUPPORTING LIGAMENT

For centuries, the Body of Christ has suffered from ignoring Paul's teaching in this passage. The church has been like the "dry bones" Ezekiel saw in chapter 37:1-6:

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons [ligaments] to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

We have placed a great deal of stress on the importance of the mature parts of the body, the "five fold ministries," but we have failed to see that for every pastor, teacher, evangelist, prophet or apostle, there are literally scores and scores of believers who have never been equipped to serve as *ligaments*. The Body of Christ requires *each part to do its work*.

You may not be an *apostle*, but you are certainly a *ligament*. You can tie or unite yourself to another cell member and create a bond of love. You can support another believer — right now!

That's what it means to be a Mentor! This is not some tricky word which has been coined to provide extra work for you to do as a cell group member. It is the very first step you can take to become a supporting ligament in Christ's Body.

Max is a wonderful Christian who was serving his Lord at the highest levels when we first met. I noticed he walked with a limp. When he wanted to stand up and talk to me he would always lean against a wall or hold my arm. Tactfully I said, “Max, what’s the problem with your leg?” He replied, “Ralph, some years ago a disease attacked my leg and destroyed the ligaments around the ankle. The bones are fine, but all support for my ankle bones is gone. The ligaments don’t give me any support. I used to love to run; now, I can only limp.”

In your cell group, is there a “Max” who limps because a “supporting ligament” has never been provided? Perhaps you, yourself, are reading this sentence and saying, “I am like that. I limp along in my Christian life today because no one took the time to support me when I first became a believer.” If so, you are learning why it is so important to be a ligament in your cell group. There are *two* problems when ligaments do not function properly. The first is that a bone is not supported; the second is that the ligament itself is weak, diseased, and useless.

We will use a special word for ligaments in this book. We will call them “Mentors.”

One who binds himself to answer for another; one who is responsible for another’s default.

MENTORING IS YOUR FIRST MINISTRY IN A CELL GROUP

A newborn baby is totally consumed with his own needs. He cries when he is wet and when he is hungry. He offers no support to anyone in the family. This is one of the characteristics of being a child.

I recall when my first grandchild was born. Nathan kept his parents hopping to meet his needs. A couple of years later, baby Ruth entered the home. Immediately Nathan wanted to help her. We snapped a photo of him, not yet three, proudly holding her in his little lap and feeding her with a bottle.

It’s interesting to see how quickly a child grows out of the first stage into the second one. Parents may think, “This child is too young to feed the baby!” Nevertheless, the child needs to be trusted to do so. It is through such activities that further maturity will take place in his life.

Are you mature enough to hold a spiritual bottle and feed another member of your cell group? Of course you are! And the act of doing so is vital to your own development.

MENTORING IS VITAL TO YOUR OWN GROWTH

Someone has said, “You will be the same person you are now five years from today, except for the people you meet and the books you read.” Of the two alternatives, meeting new people will have the more profound effect on your life. Attaching yourself to a Protégé will sensitize you to the Lord’s voice. Through the experiences of meeting together, you will see things within your own life that will cause significant changes in you. Exploring together with your Protégé will cause you to grow significantly.

MENTORING IS VITAL TO CELL LIFE

Unless all the ligaments function together, your cell group will become dry bones. It will become inflexible in outlook or habits, and it will die. The very heart of a “Basic Christian Community,” another term for a cell group, is for its members to become responsible to, and for, one another. That important ingredient is what makes a cell group grow.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PROTÉGÉ IS NOT TOO RESPONSIVE

Living in the Kingdom of God must be generated by the Holy Spirit stirring within the believer’s spirit. The very first thing to learn is whether or not your Protégé has *truly* accepted Christ as Savior and Lord. You cannot expect a spiritual corpse to show signs of life. Being “dead *in* sin” is one reason a person who claims to be a Christian isn’t responsive. Check it out.

But being “alive to sin” can also be a problem causing a lack of responsiveness. Scripture tells us the believer can *grieve, resist, quench, or be filled* with the Holy Spirit (see Acts 7:51; Ephesians 4:30-32; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 5:18.) Is your Protégé *grieving, resisting, or quenching* the Spirit? After Adam and Eve sinned, they avoided God. Check this out, too!

If your Protégé is not responsive, the first thing is to establish a personal bond to provide deep sharing between the two of you. Confession of sin and awareness of strongholds is the first step in breaking the bondage of Satan. There is no timetable for this to take place. Patience and prayer are your tools of warfare for your Protégé. Don’t set conditions on how far you are willing to go before you drop the relationship! In addition, if your Protégé is not responsive, share your problem with your cell leader.

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