

## WHY do you want to be a Teacher?

*Are you called? (Not on a phone.) Are you led? (Not by the nose.)*

First... Let me let you off the hook.

You shouldn't be a teacher JUST because there is a vacancy, or JUST because someone else is begging you to fill it.

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 12:12-29 that God has given the people in the "church" different gifts to benefit the whole group (or the body of believers). It explains that, just like our own bodies have eyes, ears, feet and hands to do different jobs to benefit the whole, the "body" of believers (of which we are all integral parts) is made up of different persons who have been gifted to do different jobs, in order to benefit the whole group (or the body of believers.)

So...Not everyone is a teacher.

1 Corinthians 12:28-29 reemphasizes this point, by saying: *"God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?"*

Ask yourself...*"Are all teachers?"* No, they are not. So, I repeat... Not everyone is a teacher.

And...Not everyone should SEEK to BECOME a teacher.

James 3:1 tells us: *"Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly."*

James was warning his fellow believers in the early church that not many of them should seek to become teachers, because those who teach will be judged more strictly.

So... Maybe you're done now. Maybe you already know that you should NOT be a teacher. Perhaps you already realize that you are NOT gifted to teach, or maybe you've realized that you do NOT desire to be judged more strictly. If so, then it's time to walk away... NOW.

Do something else. Use your gifts. Help others. God has something planned just for you!

Ephesians 2:10 tells us: *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

You cannot go wrong if you are using your gifts and talents to benefit the body of Christ; doing the good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do! *Good-bye and God bless!*

**But...** if you find that you are still here... if in your heart you know that you are (*somehow already*) a teacher... if the idea of leaving makes your heart sad... **Then stay. This is for you!**

### Exercise: What are Your Gifts and Talents?

For this exercise, if possible, please work together in small groups of 2-3 persons:

Write down (or discuss together) three things that you know you are good at. (*EX: Talking to people, cooking, taking care of children, teaching, reading the scriptures, listening to others.*)

1.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write down or say three things you would like to learn about teaching.

1.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise: So, You Want to be a Teacher

### Ask yourself these questions...

- 1.) Are you called? Are you gifted by God to teach?
  - a. The evidence for this is that your students should actually learn.
- 2.) Are you led? Is the Holy Spirit urging you to take on this responsibility?
  - a. The evidence for this is that you see a need and want to help fill it.
- 3.) Examine your heart. Are your motives pure?
  - a. The evidence for this is that you want people to come to Christ as their Lord and Savior and to grow in knowledge of Him.
  - b. If you don't have the best interest of your students as your primary motivating factor, please do not become a teacher.
- 4.) Do others agree with you becoming a teacher?
  - a. The evidence for this is that people you know and respect think it would be a really good idea for you to be a teacher. They think it would be a good use of your gifts and talents.
- 5.) Have you given your heart to Jesus?
  - a. The evidence for this is that you are a new creature in Christ.
  - b. It doesn't mean you are perfect. (None of us is perfect!) It means that you have repented of your sins and accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Did you answer "YES" to all of the questions?

YES – Great!

NO – Then please reconsider becoming a teacher. Talk to staff/ pastor/ other mentors about your gifts and talents. Perhaps your area of service lies elsewhere.

OK. Then... Let's get started...