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College Notes-Need of Christian Leadership

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COLLEGE NOTES

"NEED OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP"

Cal. School of Christianity--Wilshire Boulevard
Church--June 9, 1921

Annual
First Session
of Cal. School of Christian
Worship, Bond Church
June 9, 1924



Need of Christian Leadership--Value and Importance good Leaders.

In all lines the necessity apparent. The mass can accomplish nothing without leaders. A mob can be quickly led to do a vicious deed. An army is successful only when it has capable leaders. During the Civil War McClellan in command of the Army of the Potomac--the press and the President could get no results--Grant sent to take charge and the war quickly brought to a close.

In every business enterprise from the biggest down to the smallest, from the U.S. Steel Corporation to the section gang on the railroad, everything depends upon leadership.

Few men are born leaders--they have ever been scarce; are today. Napoleon during the French Revolution--Washington--Lincoln.

In politics, at the bar, in the church, in business, we find great outstanding figures that have pushed civilization forward.

Never a time when we needed safe and sane leadership, Christian leadership, more than today. Ambitious

and vicious leadership set all Europe ablaze and brought disgrace upon Germany and ruin upon Austria. A vicious, un-Christian leadership has brought ruin to Russia. Everything depends upon the right sort of leadership.

X The spirit of unrest pervades every department of our modern life, and if we maintain our present standard of civilization we must change the trend of the course we are now following. To do this will require leaders with correct vision, properly inspired and with adequate and proper education. The education must be well balanced; that is, all the faculties, physical, mental and spiritual must be trained.

The group, the multitude and the Nation must be led rightly if they are to develop and attain permanent prosperity and happiness.

✓ This being fundamental, it must be evident that there is no task greater, more worth while, than educating and training and disciplining our capable young people in preparation for leadership in life.

Leadership in church and state and in social and industrial life. All these need to be provided with

Christian leaders--leaders who are well poised, well equipped, well disciplined, will lead our civilization to higher planes than is now realized and bring prosperity and happiness to mankind. We should start with fundamentals. The multitude of reforms which are so popular are only makeshifts and will never attain the highest ideals.

While the well-balanced education requires physical, mental and spiritual development, it is our task, in training young people for leadership, to give special attention to the spiritual.

Let me digress just a moment in emphasizing the importance of caring for and developing the physical side. If you are to do your best work you must have a strong body. If any imperfections, remedy them. Most of our physical weaknesses can be materially bettered if one will set about the task as Theodore Roosevelt did.

H. K. Trumbull tells of a man whose looks were spoken of contemptuously and who said in rejoinder, "You have no right to find fault with my looks; I am just what God made me." "I know it, and that is what I am blaming you for," said his critic; "you have never made any

improvement on yourself."

That is the point I want to make--we ought to improve on what has been given us. Jesus criticised the man who retained the talent given him, though he was ready to give it back without accumulation at the day of reckoning.

We were impressed and often surprised at the splendid development of our young men who went into the Service. As chairman of our local Selective Service board, I gave our boys--over eighteen hundred of them--a talk before entraining them, they being sent away in groups. Many were shiftless, stoop-shouldered, ungainly and unattractive. Later they returned--most of them--and how pleased we were to see fine, erect, manly-looking young fellows. The training in the camp had brought the change.

Look after the body, and if you expect to be a public speaker you ought to present as fine a personal appearance as possible.

We expect in our school to do something toward the development of the mental, but that is largely left to the secular schools and the universities. In our school the

pupil should use his mental faculties in thinking.

Gibbons said, "Every person has two educations: that which he receives from others and the one more important which he gives himself."

Manly

We are getting to appreciate the value of young men. We realize that the Nation must have fine, capable and clear-brained young men into whose hands its destinies are to be committed if it is to endure. Therefore, if for no higher reason than this--and even this is a vital reason--the perpetuity of our nation with its high ideals of civil and religious liberty and its splendid institutions--we ought to give the most earnest heed to guarding and developing our young men. We must not stop at caring for and developing of the physical and intellectual but must give special attention to the spiritual. The spiritual life of the nation is its great saving force--destroy that and you have a Germany.

The spiritual is slower of development than either the mental or the physical. It is builded up of finer and material, it is more sensitive, must be nursed tenderly cared for, but it is the mightiest power and most irresistible force a nation can possess. No people can become really great without it.

This force given to a people is illustrated in

or farmer.

A young man with right ideals is the most valuable asset in any community or nation. In the great crises through which we recently passed we called our young men, and how lyally they responded and how quickly and effectively they did the job assigned to them!

Look, therefore, to the development of the spiritual. May the atmosphere of the institution be so surcharged with the spiritual that every young man or young woman coming within the pale of its influence will at once feel it and be influenced by it. Let this be a real divinely-engendered spiritual atmosphere, not merely a professional and perfunctory statement that we ought to be spiritual.

Jesus must be presented to the pupil and the teacher as an attractive personality. Talk of the Bible and of Jesus all the time. Some phase of the book or some view of the Christ should be presented on every hand. Make Jesus very real.

Doctrine is all right in its place but must never occupy the first place in teaching, to the exclusion or

overshadowing of Jesus and his ideals.

May this institution be Christian in more than
name and doctrine.

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