

## **Thinking about Ministry and Authenticity**

### **By Bob Young**

Here is the goal of my life: to develop an effective ministry in word, in prayer, and in heart (compassion)

### **Ministry**

The importance of what we do in ministry:

- No US county with church growth exceeding that of 10 years ago
- It appears that first-time marriages may have only a 50% chance of success
- 75% of African-American babies are born out of wedlock
- Families are struggling, crumbling, society is disintegrating due to the loss of family frameworks.

To appreciate the importance of focusing life on one task, check the book of Nehemiah where Nehemiah committed himself wholeheartedly to repairing the crumbling walls of Jerusalem.

### **Authenticity**

Real, genuine? Authenticity relates to being, not doing.

1. Wholeness
2. Humanity and the image of God
3. Balance

Accountability, for what does God hold us accountable? What are the essentials?

You cannot prioritize essentials, all are essential.

The absence of one messes up everything else.

Interdependence.

### **#1--At the Center/Focus/Purpose**

Solitude, we sort our values in solitude, school for leadership development, make a list of leaders who were formed in solitude

Relationships (10 commandments were relational)

\*Heart of worship, made for intimacy, do I live intimately with God, do I seek his presence, do I honor/adore/magnify/glorify him, is he my paraclete, 2 Kings 6

\*handful of godly friends, intimacy, friendship more than fellowship, personable vs. personal

\*faithfully live out my family role(s)

Living Life (10 commandments dealt with living life)

\*pick up the towel and basin, advance the cause where it is not. Jesus disappointed more people in his lifetime/ministry than any other person, but he pleased the Father

\*learn to work hard and enjoy work (acquired taste)

\*rest/sabbathing (ck. Mark Buchanan as author in this area); 20-25% of Jesus' ministry was spent in intentional rest

Stewardships

\*stewardship of my body

\*stewardship of my possessions/stuff and my opportunities (fool in Proverbs lives in chaos regarding possessions)

\*stewardship of my mind, creativity