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10 tips for youth pastors and their teams.

1 - If you are going to offend someone let it be because of the Gospel.

If you are going to offend someone make sure it is not because of the way they were greeted, treated, talked to or followed up with. If for some reason a young person attends your service and leaves offended make sure it is because they did not agree with the Gospel message, not because of the way you and your team presented it.

2 - Remember that your target audience is the lost - not the found.

Jesus said that He came to the world to, "*Seek and Save the Lost*". Your student ministry is like Jesus coming into a community. He wants to work thru you and your team to "*seek and save the lost*", not "*borrow and steal the found*". So make your target market, young people that are not already plugged into a church.

3 - Put emphasis on building a body of believers not filling up a building.

The Church is not a 501c3 not profit organization. The Church is not a building. The Church is people. The Church is People that are passionately pursuing and publicly proclaiming Jesus. Your greatest asset in ministry is not your finances. Your greatest asset is not your facility. Your greatest asset is people. So as you work and building the church, use your time, energy, and resources to build and gather your greatest asset. People.

When you build a body of believers. The body will fill up the building.

4 - Be relationally liberal but biblically conservative.

If you want to reach young people you are going to have to be in relationship with them. That means if you want to reach lost young people, you and your team are going to have to be in relationship with people that think, act, and believe differently than you do.

As you are liberal with who you live life with, you have to stay conservative on how you live your life. Be friends with everyone, but as you are friends with them, be sure that you always, believe, teach, and model the principles of Jesus found in the scriptures.

5 - Give young people a chance to become owners of the ministry not members of a club.

Members have rights but owners have responsibilities. As a Youth Pastor you do not want members of a club. Members are people that pay some money to have the right to sit down and tell other people what needs to be done. Members are people that simply show up and let others do the work for them. As a Youth Pastor you need owners. You need people that are not only financially invested but also physically alongside of you, so together you can do the work of the ministry.

6 - Understand your Youth Group is probably not as friendly as you think.

Of course you think your ministry is friendly. You are the Youth Pastor. Everyone knows you, talks to you, and wants to say Hi to you! But what about the teenager who is totally new, and doesn't know anyone? Who greets them? Who talks with them? Who answers their questions or invites them to grab a bite after the service? Model friendliness, teach friendliness and set up systems where your students and leaders are released to be friendly as well as follow up with newcomers each week.

7 - Make systems that serve people. Not people that serve systems.

Systems are meant to solve problems for people, but too many times systems are the problem that keep us from reaching more people. Every month take a look at how you are doing, what you are doing and what needs to be changed in order to serve the needs of your greatest asset, people. Never be a slave to your systems.

8 - Protect the vision at all cost.

The vision is not yours it belongs to God, so protect it. Preach the vision in a way that inspires people. Delegate the vision in a way that releases people. Stay true to the vision even if you lose people. At some point your most influential student or volunteer is going to want to leave because of a difference in vision. When this happens, let them leave. You need God's vision more than you need their attendance or help.

9 - Only do what God has called you and equipped you to do.

You can't do everything so don't try. Sometimes we do so many things that we actually don't do anything well. As a Youth Pastor there is no way you can have as many ministries as the ministry down the street. That's OK. It is better to only do 3 things and have them all be great, then do 10 things have have them all be mediocre.

10 - The structure that got you where you are, will not get you where you are going.

If you have a 1400 sq. ft house and you want a 4,000 sq. ft house you are going to have to change your foundational structure. If you have 50 young people and you want 300 young people then you are going to have to change your leadership structure. Never change for change sake (that's stupid) but if you want something in your organization to change, don't be afraid to change the leadership structure of your organization.

Note from Kevin:

Thanks for listening to the audio. I want to invite you to take this content as well as pdf and teach the material to your team. I would be honored to connect with you and hear your story. Please feel free to email me anytime at growmoore@gmail.com.

God bless,

Kevin