

No. 3 Fulfilling the Law of Christ in the Field Ministry (Circuit overseer)

Note to speaker:

This talk includes interviews. Stress that preaching is a primary way to show love for people. Discuss how Bible principles can move us to witness effectively, thus imitating Jesus in showing love to others

FULFILLING THE LAW OF CHRIST REQUIRES THAT WE PREACH (4 min.)

Jesus expects his followers to “observe all the things” he has commanded, which includes the commission to preach (Mt 24:14; 28:19, 20)

Preaching is a primary way to show love and thus fulfill the law of Christ (*w15 3/15 29 ¶14*)

As a result, we enjoy the love and affection of Jehovah God and Jesus Christ [**Read John 15:10**]

As brought to our attention in the opening talk, one of the ways we learn the law of Christ is by studying *principles* that Jesus gave to the congregation

Following these can motivate us to preach and make disciples not merely out of duty but out of love

Let us examine three principles that will help us to fulfill the law of Christ in our ministry

WE FAITHFULLY CARRY OUT OUR COMMISSION TO PREACH (5 min.)

[**Read Luke 16:10**] Being faithful in little and in much will move us *to cover our territory thoroughly*

Jesus journeyed “from city to city and from village to village” to bring the Kingdom good news to others (Lu 8:1)

He sent his followers to do the same work in the same way (Lu 9:2, 6)

As a congregation, are we making a concerted effort to cover our assigned territory, especially when inviting people to such special events as the Memorial of Christ’s death and the regional convention?

As individual publishers, are we “faithful in what is least” by returning to call on all who showed interest in our message and also to homes where no one was contacted?

Faithful to our commission, we will try to determine the best time to approach householders, taking into account when people are usually at home and when they are likely to be receptive (1 Co 10:24)

[Apply to needs in the local circuit. Relate positive reports of the good accomplished when publishers put forth extra effort to be thorough in covering their assigned territory]

Jehovah will bless the loving sacrifices we make in reaching as many as possible with the good news

LOVE ALL YOUR NEIGHBORS (5 min.)

[**Read Matthew 22:39**] Love for our neighbor will impel us *to witness impartially*

Our impartial God teaches us to witness to others regardless of their race, origin, or social standing

Jehovah will save everyone who comes to know him and lives in harmony with his will (Ro 10:12, 13)

If you detect in yourself any hint of prejudice toward a certain people, work hard to change the biased attitude (*w16.10 9-10 ¶9*)

[Interview a local pioneer who overcame wrong thinking in order to give a more effective witness to all sorts of people. Or relate a published experience, such as appeared in *Awake!* August 2009, page 3, paragraphs 1-4 and page 8, paragraph 4, through page 9, paragraph 1]

When we love even those who persecute us, we are fulfilling the law of Christ (Mt 5:43, 44)

[Apply locally. Discuss how to dignify all people in the assigned territory of the circuit]

GIVE OF YOURSELF (5 min.)

[**Read Acts 20:35**] *Cultivate interest by skillfully making return visits and starting Bible studies*

When love for Jehovah God, Jesus Christ, our brothers, and our neighbor is present, holy spirit can accentuate this love and make us more effective in our ministry

Jehovah has provided many tools to help us develop skills and become more effective

[Relate how you have found the *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook* beneficial for the ministry]

Many in our congregations have years of experience in the field ministry, and we can learn from them

Practice what you learn, use the tools provided, and think of ways to engage people in conversation

As you become more effective, you will gain enthusiasm and joy in preaching and teaching

[Apply locally. Relate experiences resulting from good preparation]

INTERVIEW (3 min.)

[Interview a publisher who patiently assisted a Bible student to overcome obstacles. In what ways did the publisher have to make sacrifices in order to help the student? Why was the hard work worth it? What joys did the publisher experience? Use the experience to motivate the audience to conduct Bible studies despite the time and effort involved]

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LOOK FOR WAYS TO REFLECT CHRIST IN YOUR MINISTRY (2 min.)

Study other Bible principles in an effort to grasp the spirit of the law of Christ

Then be guided by them in your ministry

These can help you to be more compassionate, empathetic, and respectful in your preaching and teaching work, just as the Christ was known to be

Review question: How do we fulfill the law of Christ in the field ministry?

Answer: Luke 16:10; Matthew 22:39; Acts 20:35; by applying Bible principles in our preaching and teaching work, we will reflect the love that Christ had for God and for people. We will cover our territory thoroughly, witness impartially, and cultivate interest skillfully

When Jesus was on earth, his lifework was “teaching . . . and preaching the good news” (Mt 4:23)

It was performed out of great love for his Father and for humankind

May we too fulfill the law of Christ in the field ministry, thus proving our love for Jehovah

If we do, we will experience deep satisfaction now and a rewarding life in the future!

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text)