

CIRCUIT OVERSEER MEETS WITH ELDERS AND MINISTERIAL SERVANTS PROGRAM FROM MARCH 2012 THROUGH AUGUST 2012

Note to the circuit overseer:

Warmly express appreciation for all that the appointed men are doing in caring for the needs of the congregation. Mention specific areas in which you have observed that the brothers are doing well. The tone of the meeting should be loving and positive. You may start using this outline anytime during February but at the very latest by the first week of March

Theme: "Hate what is bad, and love what is good" (Am 5:15)

INTRODUCTION (4 min.)

As appointed men, we must not allow the world to squeeze us into its mold or allow its undesirable traits to rub off on us (Ro 12:2)

Regarding Doeg the Edomite, David wrote: "You have loved what is bad more than what is good, falsehood more than speaking righteousness" (Ps 52:3)

Since "the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one," it takes earnest effort to hate what is bad (1Jo 5:19; Ps 97:10)

What can help us in this regard? (Ro 12:9)

BIBLE READING IS ESSENTIAL FOR LOVING GOOD AND HATING BAD (15 min.)

The Scriptures encourage us to imitate Jehovah and follow Jesus; this includes loving what they love and hating what they hate (Eph 5:1; 1Pe 2:21)

Our heavenly Father gave us the Bible to explain the things we should love and the bad practices we must hate. We must take care to listen to Jehovah by daily Bible reading

Taking in knowledge and understanding of God's Word is likened to physical food (Jer 15:16; Mt 24:45; Lu 12:42)

Reading and meditating on God's Word should be a daily practice like eating good food that we look forward to and enjoy

As those who are "taking the lead," appointed men should be setting a good example in being students of God's Word, not missing even a day of Bible reading (Heb 13:7; Ps 1:1, 2)

[Read Proverbs 4:5, 6] Ask yourself: How much do I love God's sayings? Is reading the Bible a priority for me? Is it a *daily* routine? Doing so is a protection for us

Notice how the apostle Paul was inspired to describe Jesus' life and teachings [Read Hebrews 1:9]

Love for what is good will develop Christlike qualities in us

Hatred for things condemned in the Bible will keep us from doing them and thereby losing God's approval

By continuously feasting on God's Word by daily Bible reading, we will stay strong and resist Satan and his traps

Questions: How does regular Bible reading help us to acquire and maintain Jehovah's and Jesus' view of good and bad? What are some obstacles to maintaining a schedule of daily Bible reading and meditation? What Bible reading schedule has been successful for you and your family? [As time permits, share suggestions and experiences from the August 1, 2009, issue of *The Watchtower*, pages 13-18]

SHOW LOVE FOR WHAT IS GOOD BY YOUR EXAMPLE (10 min.)

All of Jehovah's people are to be examples in Christian living to their workmates, schoolmates, neighbors, and unbelieving relatives

However, appointed men are to 'be examples to the faithful ones,' that is, baptized Christians who have already proved their obedience and devotion (1Ti 4:12)

Such faithful ones can be fortified to love what is good and hate what is bad as they observe our example (1) at the meetings and (2) in the field ministry

Are we good examples to the congregation in attendance and participation at the meetings? (Lu 4:16)

Situation: An elder or a ministerial servant neglects meeting preparation and rarely raises his hand to comment. When he does, his comments are elementary

Questions: What effect might his example have on the faithful ones? How could this eventually affect what the brother loves and what he hates?

What an encouragement to see appointed men who are faithful in meeting attendance, who pay close attention to what is said from the platform, and who offer comments that reflect spiritual depth!

Even though busy, Jesus was a zealous preacher of the good news

He was not known primarily as the miracle worker, or one who fed multitudes and resurrected the dead, but as the ‘Teacher’ (Joh 13:13; Mt 4:23)

We imitate Jesus’ love for the field ministry (1) by the example we set with our family and (2) by our support of the regular pioneers

Questions: How could practice sessions for the ministry during family worship help our family to be an example to others? In what other ways can we set a good example as a family? [We do so by supporting the meetings for field service, serving as auxiliary or regular pioneers as we are able, inviting others to work along with us in the field service, and turning in our field service reports on time]

Questions: What are some ways we can support the regular pioneers? How does Jehovah view such efforts to do what is good? (Heb 13:16)

[Commend the brothers for something specific that you observed during the week of the visit that relates to their example in the meetings or field ministry]

REJECTING PORNOGRAPHY SHOWS HATRED FOR WHAT IS BAD (12 min.)

The Bible urges all who desire God’s favor to “flee from fornication” (1Co 6:18)

To do so we must avoid the plague of pornography

Why is viewing pornography so harmful? (Pr 6:27; g03 7/22 6-10; g02 7/8 19-21)

- (1) It distorts one’s view of the opposite sex (1Ti 5:1, 2)
- (2) It cheapens the marriage bond (Mt 5:27, 28; Heb 13:4)
- (3) It weakens one’s conscience and resolve to do what is right (1Ti 3:8, 9)
- (4) It makes one a slave to one’s sexual urges (Col 3:5)
- (5) It leaves mental images that are not easily erased
- (6) It damages one’s precious relationship with Jehovah (Isa 35:8)

One brother who struggled with pornography said: “I would not wish it on my worst enemy. It is the most demonic thing on this earth. I would encourage anyone not to minimize the warnings”

Do we not have every reason to strengthen our hatred for this insidious form of entertainment and to run far away from it?

Moved by their sincere love and concern for the brotherhood, the Governing Body has provided a number of kind warnings about the dangers of pornography (1Th 2:7, 8)

[Read from “Questions From Readers,” pages 30-31, in the March 15, 2012, issue of *The Watchtower*, and highlight the expanded definition of abhorrent forms of pornography. Such pornography may include things such as homosexuality (sex between those of the same gender), group sex, and bestiality. Additionally, explain that the gender of the one watching the pornography is not the question. For example, it is just as bad for a man or woman to watch two women engaged in immoral activity as it is for a man or woman to watch two men engaged in immoral activity. An entrenched practice of viewing, perhaps over a considerable period of time, abhorrent forms of pornography that is sexually degrading calls for attention by a judicial committee because it is gross uncleanness (Ga 5:19-21)]

If any appointed man is having a problem with pornography, there is no need for him to struggle with this on his own

Pray for Jehovah to give you the strength to do what is right
Seek the help of the elders who will deal with you in a compassionate and loving manner
You will then restore your relationship with your heavenly Father and enjoy peace of mind
[Read Acts 23:1] We are confident that these words are true in your case, as you continue to be an example to the faithful ones in hating what is bad and loving what is good

LOCAL NEEDS (8 min.)

[Please remind the brothers to follow through on the direction in the May 25, 2011, letter to all bodies of elders with regard to offering visiting speakers a meal and asking to cover their travel expenses. While each body of elders determines the practical arrangements needed to implement this direction, all should keep in mind the importance of hospitality (Ro 12:13; 15:7; 3Jo 8)]

CONCLUSION (3 min.)

In these critical last days, we must love what is good and hate what is bad

Doeg the Edomite was evidently a proselyte who professed to serve Jehovah

At Saul's command, he unhesitatingly killed 85 priests. Later he devoted Nob to destruction, slaughtering all of its inhabitants, young and old, as well as the livestock (1Sa 22:6-20; *it-1* 644)

He loved what is bad more than what is good

What will help us to avoid his example?

(1) Reading God's Word daily, (2) being a good example to the faithful ones at meetings and in the field ministry, and (3) rejecting things that are bad, such as pornography

As we imitate Jehovah's and Jesus' view of what is good and bad, we will maintain a good conscience and enjoy God's smile of approval

[**At this point, the ministerial servants should be dismissed.** Thereafter, consider with the elders the following information and any other necessary matters needing attention]

ABHORRENT FORMS OF PORNOGRAPHY (8 min.)

[In addition to what was reviewed above regarding abhorrent forms of pornography and the significance of the adjustment outlined in the March 15, 2012, issue of *The Watchtower*, remind the elders of the December 15, 2011, letter to all bodies of elders concerning the revision that should be made in the *Shepherding* textbook. Remind the elders that when they meet as a body to evaluate whether a baptized brother or sister has become involved in gross uncleanness, the body of elders must determine whether (1) the pornography watched was *abhorrent* in nature and (2) whether it is an *entrenched practice*. The body of elders is responsible to carefully and prayerfully evaluate the factors and then determine whether the case should be handled judicially. Finally, inform the elders that a more comprehensive letter on the subject of pornography is forthcoming and should be carefully studied by each elder. It should be consulted when cases involving pornography come to the attention of the elders in the future]