

# **Practical Ways to Promote the Piety of Our Students.**

TEASA-WORKSHOP

# Introduction

Many Bible Colleges do well on the vocational and academic side of the development of students but don't do as well on the spiritual formation side of the matter.

# Introduction

John Ochola underlined the need for balance when he wrote:

“Theological education by its very nature must be spiritual, internal, practical and vocational”

I agree with Ochola

We will therefore focus is promotion of the missing virtue, namely piety. For specifically we want to focus on

practical ways of promoting the piety of our students.

# **1. Piety is the ultimate goal of Theological Education**

- What is Piety?

# What is Piety?

- Piety is devotion or reverence to God or to religious practices.
- The synonyms of the word piety are devoutness or godliness.

# Piety in the Old Testament

- The ‘fear of the Lord.’
- The primary meaning of the fear of the Lord is veneration, honor and awe.

# Piety in the New Testament

- Righteous living (Matthew 6:1) (RSV).
- Godliness. (Acts 3:12) (RSV)-
- A work of God from the inside out.(Colossians 2:23) (NRSV)

# Piety as Spiritual Formation

- In some Bible/Theological schools the development of piety in students is called “Spiritual Formation”



## 2.The Promotors of Piety

- Specialists? i.e. Chaplain/Pastoral Theology department?

Or

- Faculty, Staff as a whole? Yes

# The Characteristics of the Promoters of Piety in Students

But what kind of faculty and staff must they be in order to deliver the goal of piety?

We can take our cue from Timothy and Titus who were sent out to be Paul's deputies to build Churches and leaders.

# The Characteristics required in Timothy and Titus

- They themselves needed to qualify for leadership on the same basis as the leaders they appointed
- They were to concentrate on the qualities that the false teachers had forsaken such as godly speech and conduct (1Tim 4:12).
- They were to train themselves in godliness(1Tim 4:7).

# The Characteristics required in Timothy and Titus

- They were required to nourish themselves in the truth of the faith and in good teaching(1Tim 4:6)
- They were required set a good example for the flock(1Tim 4:12; Tit 2:7f) so that everyone could see their progress(1Tim 4:15).
- They were required be faithful in passing on sound teaching (2Tim 1:13f and 2:2; 3:14; Tit 2:1).

# The Priority of Spirituality in the Promoters of Piety

Similarly

“In the selection of faculty, godliness and the mentoring of their spiritual development must take precedence over any kind of academic criteria if theological education is to differ from that which is secular”

# 10 Qualities of Faculty who would promote Piety in Students

Tim Dearborn lists ten qualities of a faculty members who would promote the piety of students: They are:

- Spirituality (passion for Jesus, personal godliness)
- Vision (ability to inspire and instill vision in others)
  - Pastoral gifts and ministry experience
    - Communication ability
- Scholarship (research, analysis, reflection, publication)

# 10 Qualities of Faculty who would promote Piety in Students

- Servant mentality
- Personal transparency,
- Love for the church,
  - Love of culture,
- Love of diversity among people

# Summary on the Promoters of the Piety of Students

- What is needed is a steady stream of faculty members who combine academic excellence with personal godliness



# 3.The Practical Promotion of Piety in Students

- How can faculty and staff in a theological academy practically promote piety in the students?
  - There are a number of things they could do:

# The Practical Promotion of Piety in Students

- a. Encourage students to engage in private devotions.
  
- b. Encouraging students to be part of a local church and to participate fully in the church

# The Practical Promotion of Piety in Students

- c. Organize a Chapel on campus that faculty, staff and students must participate in.
- d. Teach students to balancing academic pressure and faith life
- e. Offer the study of spiritual formation as a compulsory course for all students.

# The Practical Promotion of Piety in Students

- f. Encouraging the teacher student relationship (Rom 15:2; 1Cor 8:1).
  
- g. Encourage the development of community life in which faculty and students live and work together.

# Conclusion

- 1 Our programs of theological education must combine spiritual and practical with academic objectives in, one holistic integrated educational approach
2. The spiritual formation and development of seminary students begins with and is dependent upon the spiritual formation and development of the faculty”
3. Spiritual development cannot merely be a subject within theological education, separate from other subjects. Rather it must be a perspective affecting the whole educative process.

# Conclusion

4. We may graduate students who are intellectually elite, highly motivated academically, prepared for the best graduate schools and successful once there. But if their hearts are not inclined to God, we have failed to realize our vision.

5. Let us therefore labor to promote piety in ourselves and our students under God.