

CBLT CENTER ETHICS WITHIN AND WITHOUT YOUR DENOMINATION

I. RECORDKEEPING FOR *BASIC CHRISTIAN LIFE*

You must have a complete record for each of your groups. On top should be written which city it is in, which church it belongs to, the date it began and ended, the name of the group leader and, since I like charts, I suggest a listing of the students in chart form. On the left you write down the student's name and then you have three columns for the three different *Basic Christian Life* courses. In each column beside the student's name, you simply write down the grade you think he deserves. You probably need to _____ that for use in the fall time and so you will make a photocopy for the CBLT Center as an official record.

II. CAN NEW AND UN-BAPTIZED BELIEVERS BE COURSE COACHES?

In the book of Acts, where they were starting many new churches from nothing, they had no old believers. Peter was the oldest believer, and only fifty days before his ministry he denied Jesus totally.

- 1) I think it depends on the spiritual development of that person; the level of courses he leads and the level of his students.
- 2) Does he already have some specialized training in that field? If an educated unbeliever comes to Christ, is saved and then yields his experience, his education, and his talents, he can quickly make a giant jump forward.
- 3) Do you trust him in his spiritual growth and reputation?
- 4) First I would give him a job as an _____ coach, then maybe he could lead one group. Only after I had tested him in several different situations would I give him more responsibility and other groups. That is more or less what CBLT does with new group leaders and course coaches in the beginning. Such new workers had to make plans with the provincial superintendent, preach and make advertisements, organize a pastors' conference, a Sunday school conference, teach boys and girls for a while, and they did not quit! So because they have proven to be faithful they got a job,

III. WHAT TO DO WHEN LEADING A *BASIC CHRISTIAN LIFE* COURSE IN A COLLEGE, AND A NEW DEPARTMENT HEAD DOES NOT WANT THIS BIBLE STUDY IN HIS INSTITUTE?

Assuming a couple of things: a) Your students really want to study further. b) The department head is not approachable. He is closed to the idea. He says, "No!"

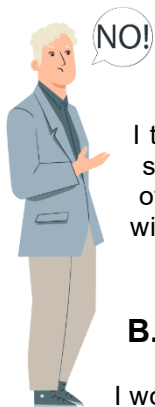
I would go to the director of the college, and I would explain to him that I had something I wanted his help and advice for. That something in the college has happened that is causing some stress for the students and you are only an outsider, but if he would be so kind as to give you a few minutes, perhaps he could help the students and the reputation of his college. You say, "In this particular department a certain professor invited me--or some of the students with the agreement of this department leader asked for a particular study of the Bible which takes three months. Now, in the middle of the program, the former department head retired or was removed and a new one came and he suggested that we stop this program immediately. Sir, I can tell you that the students are really upset about it. They are frustrated, and they do not like it. Now I am only an _____ and I do not want to do anything against your wishes or that causes hurt or damage or harm



to anybody, but as an educator I would like to ask you a question, 'Is it really an intelligent thing to stop a course in the middle?' I think that you will probably agree with me that that is not the nicest or best for the students, the institute or anybody." Do not wait for his answer! You ask the question and then you give the answer. You say, "I do not know if it is possible for you to talk to this new department head, or I do not know if there is another way to help these students, or if a new room and a new time to study could be found, and that is why I am here. I think this is a difficulty, and I think that the students want to respect you, and we are looking to you to find a good solution for us. What can you suggest?"

Now there is the possibility that the director is the personal friend of this new department head, or that he was against the former department head and that is why he has moved him out. So if it cannot continue, then I would try to organize a separate place in a house/apartment nearby and invite the group to come there and continue your studies privately off the college campus.

IV. WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOUR *BASIC CHRISTIAN LIFE* GROUP IN AN ORTHODOX OR CATHOLIC CHURCH WANTS TO CONTINUE STUDYING THE BIBLE, BUT THEIR CHURCH LEADERS SAID NOT TO?



A. Consider your students

I think a key issue is, how close a bond have you developed with your students? How many of your students really want to continue with this? That is number one to find out. How genuine is the interest of the students? If there is a _____ interest, you say, "Well there are eight more lessons left, I will finish these 8 lessons with them. I simply can not quit in the middle."

B. Seek the favor and permission of the church leader

I would go to the church leader and say, "You know I do not want to hurt you or do anything bad to you. We understood that you did not want these people to study further, but most of the students or all of the students would really like to finish at least this little booklet. It is only two months and the school year is over and then it is summer time, and my request is this: Why not let them finish this course? They will be happy. They will respect you for that decision. They will honor you for that decision, and then there is not a lot of gossip about it. And then one little thing is completed, and they are still your people. I promise I will never invite them, or ask them to come to my church."

If I was teaching in a church of another denomination, I would never speak about my church or my denomination. I would never invite them to my church. If they wanted to talk about it, I would say, "Let us go to the bus stop or to the cafeteria in a separate _____ place and if you have questions, then there I will be happy to answer some of your questions." Take note of these things, because you will need them next year or later.

C. If the leader is not supportive, find out who wants to quit and let them quit

You say, "I do not want to do anything against your church or church leader. If there are some of you who would really like to quit, let us see, who really thinks it is better to quit?" Gracefully dismiss the people who are afraid, or the people who do not want to continue because they want to follow their church leader. Then you would have a group left over of only those that really want to study.

D. Discuss with them if they are willing to pay the price

Their church leader may criticize them for it, or other people may criticize them. They need to say very very clearly that they have requested you to continue studying with them. This is what you will need to repeat for many, many weeks when you meet. They need to tell other people that they have requested that you continue teaching them.

E. Begin a new group, at a _____

You could organize another place to meet, and you could simply say, "I see that several of you would like to study further. Now your church leader has asked me not to continue doing it this way, so I think we should stop here and next week on such and such a day, at such and such a time I will be at this address, and I will organize a new group. If some of you want to study further, then you are welcome to go over there, but it will not be the same continuation of this group from your church.

If the church leader lets you finish this course, and in the fall time the students want to study again, you can approach him again. Maybe he has changed his mind. Or you can phone your students individually and say that if you want to study again this fall, we are not doing the same thing but now we are studying this over in another place, and there will also be other students. Maybe in that way you can continue to help those people.

V. HOW CAN A PERSON APPLY THE BIBLE, PRACTICALLY, TO HIS LIFE?

That is why we designed this Monthly Course Planner very specifically for each individual student. The *Practical Evangelism* and *Establishing Disciples* courses are also very practical. The *Basic Christian Life* course is a character development course. That should really be able to help him already. For the other courses, you can take the Monthly Course Planner, sit down with him and _____ little projects that he can do on a daily basis. If there is a new Russian paraphrase translation of the Bible available, that person will probably need one.

Have the person daily write out a key verse in his own words. In other words have him make his own personal paraphrased version. You probably need to have him look at the Bible verse together with you and rephrase that Bible verse in his own village language. So he has to start changing the words from the Bible into his normal, everyday thinking process and language.

Then you need to ask him five small questions:

- 1) "What does this Bible verse tell you to do?" He will tell you something and you say,
- 2) "What else?" and he may give you two or three ideas.
- 3) Then you say, "When do you think you can study the Bible?"
(Write _____ down that he tells you.)
- 4) Then you say, "With whom are you going to do this?"
- 5) Then you say, "What a beautiful plan you have given me. Look at that, these are all your ideas", and you rip it off your pad and you give it to him and say, "I can hardly wait to come back next week and sit down with you again and see how God has blessed you with this."



So now he knows that you are coming back to have some quality control. Next week you make a victory time by saying, "Well I see that you were not able to do everything, but you actually got started this time. Let us make a little plan again this week and let us trust God for you to do the next step as well." I think that is discipling on an _____ basis. You need to remember that God's purpose for you is to make other people successful.

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

We are happy to present the video, audio and paper materials that have been prepared by **New Life for Churches**. You have the privilege upon completion of your practical assignment to use this lecture with others.

Practical assignment

Completed

- Each day for the next month write one Bible verse in your own words. Make your own personal paraphrased version. ☐
- Take a brand new believer — (2 days to 1 week old in the Lord) with you and give him a spiritual task to perform in your presence ☐
- At the next Workshop report and participate in a discussion about these two assignments ☐

Answer Key

- I. keep
- II. assistant
- III. outsider
- IV. **A.** great
B. neutral
E. new place
- V. devise; everything; individual