

“Preparing for Vocational Ministry”

1. Personal Preparation

a. Relationship with God

- i. Spend regular time alone with God, in the Word, and in prayer.
- ii. Seek to live a pure life.
- iii. Experience a deep desire to serve God with your whole life.

b. Relationship with Self

- i. Work through most/all of the major issues in your past (ie. Steps to Freedom, Theophostic, Regier, and so on.)
- ii. Know your spiritual gifts (ie. Networking class.)
- iii. Balance your life (ie. Ministry, personal needs, family, and so on.)
- iv. Live a disciplined life.
- v. Discover what refills you – spiritually, emotionally, mentally, physically, and so on.

c. Relationship with Others

- i. Develop good people skills
- ii. Be willing and able to resolve conflicts with others.
- iii. Understand the need for grace and truth in relationships.
- iv. Family.

2. Theological/Academic Preparation

a. Bible Knowledge

- i. Have the discipline of spending regular time in the Word.
- ii. Develop a broad knowledge of the Word.
- iii. Loves God’s Word.

b. Formal Theological Training

- i. Have a good understanding of major doctrinal truths (ie. Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem.)
- ii. Have the tools to do further research.
- iii. Work toward any necessary degree.

c. Other Academic Preparation

- i. Read all you can about the Lord.
- ii. Read all you can about leadership.
- iii. Read all you can about the ministry to which you feel called
- iv. Attend seminars and conferences.
- v. Get on mailing lists so as to stay in touch with current development.

3. Experiential Preparation

- a. Be active in a local church/ministry that relates to your area of calling (ie. Youth, children, missions, teaching, and so on.)
- b. Seek out mentors.
- c. Ask for experience from those who are doing what you feel called to do.
- d. Try things outside your calling.