

Busybodies And Overseers

4030

1 Peter 4:15—A busybody (Gk. *alotrioepiskopos*) means “one who takes the supervision of affairs pertaining to others, and in no wise (pertaining) to himself.” (Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament by Joseph H. Thayer). Compare 1 Peter 2:25.

I. Areas Not To Be Overseen

- A. Romans 14:1–6—Being critical of how others bring up their children
- B. What a man eats or doesn't eat
- C. What day(s) they observe
- D. Meddling in your child's marriage

II. Areas To Be Overseen

- A. Gen. 2:15—Man was created to govern and to oversee certain areas (Gen. 1:26)
 - 1. Oversight is always in a practical realm and is nearly always progressive.
 - 2. You start with something small and then move upward.
- B. Children: very early in life they must be given areas of oversight and responsibility: first their toys, then their bedrooms, later their pets, etc.
- C. Man: His main areas of supervision are: first, his wife; second, his children; etc.
- D. Woman: Her primary responsibility is her home. 1 Tim. 5:14. She is the authority of the home (Gk. *Oikodespoteo*).

III. Spiritual Oversight

- A. Acts 6:1–4—The apostles' ministry and oversight in prayer and preaching would not have been as successful if there had not been ministry and oversight by the deacons in the service of the material realm.
- B. 1 Tim. 3:12–13—Nobody can be placed into a spiritually responsible position without first being tried out in the practical realm. If you are successful in the material realm, then you can be promoted to the spiritual.

IV. Our Area Of Oversight

- A. Two questions:
 - 1. What do I answer for?
 - 2. Whom do I answer to?
- B. You need to find a place in God where you are overseeing the things God holds you responsible for, and under those whom God has made to oversee you.
- C. Prov. 27:8—Nothing is more weak and helpless than a small bird out of its nest. So is a man who is not in his God-appointed place

V. How To Find Your Area of Oversight

- A. Acknowledge your need
 - 1 Cor. 12:14–22—Every member of the body needs the rest of the body in order to function properly. We must acknowledge our need for the body.
- B. Lose your life
 - 1. Matt. 16:24–25—Deny yourself. It's not: “I want,” “I feel,” “I like,” “I wish”
 - 2. 1 John. 3:16–17—We must lay down our ego for the sake of the brothers
 - 3. Rom. 14:7–8—Whether we live or die we are the Lord's

C. Humility

Luke 14:8-11—We must learn to humble ourselves by a choice of our will

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