

The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Church Planters

We are all well aware of Stephen Covey's highly acclaimed book, "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People". We will look at this concept as it relates to effective church planting. What are the basic seven habits that separate good church planters from great church planters?

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- 1. More effective church planters spend more time in prayer.**
- 2. More effective church planters use more broadly based evangelistic efforts.**
- 3. More effective church planters are more flexible in their methods.**
- 4. More effective church planters are more committed to a solid biblical doctrinal position.**
- 5. More effective church planters establish greater credibility.**

6. More effective church planters have a greater ability to identify and then work with people who have a loosely structured religion.

7. More effective church planters have a greater ability to incorporate new converts into evangelistic outreach even though they had minimal training.

Conclusion

There is a myth that is very viral in evangelical circles. It is the myth of faithfulness. We hear people say, “It doesn’t matter what the outcome is, the important thing is, were you faithful?” Jesus explodes this myth in Matthew 25: 14-30.

¹⁴“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²²“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²³“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?’ ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸“ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

What does Jesus commend? Jesus comments the deeds of the first two servants. He says, “Well done!” They *did* something well. What did they do? They increased the net worth of the master by increasing the sum of his investment given to them. Faithfulness is not an end in and of itself. Faithfulness is the means of productivity in the kingdom of God. The Lord wants us to be both faithful and fruitful.

Points to ponder:

- As you look at the seven habits of highly successful church planters, which habits are you employing in our life and ministry?
- Which is the one habit that is under represented in our life and ministry?
- Talk and pray with a good friend about what the Lord wants you to change and how you would go about that change.