
Ministry Amongst Elders

Most ministers commence their ministry in congregations where many members are older. Apprentices also find themselves in this situation and so can learn the attitudes and pitfalls of ministry to elders.

Exercise

Exercise some ministry amongst those who are older.

Aims

1. To listen and understand the different stages of life experienced by our elders and how this affects their Christian life and ministry.
2. To learn to speak and relate naturally and respectfully to those who are older.
3. To identify the different ways of relating to those who are younger, our peers and elders.
4. To learn to exhort older men as fathers and treat older women as mothers.

Apprentices

1. Study 1 Timothy 4:11-5:2, where Paul addresses the problem of the younger minister.
2. Identify particular older men and women in church with whom to take some interest and build rapport.
3. Listen patiently without speaking and correcting.
4. Take an eager interest in the opinions, experiences and historical perspective of elders.
5. Learn from their ministry experiences and experience of ministers!
6. Work out some way of encouraging them as Christians and providing practical aid if needed.

Trainers

- Ask about progress in these steps.