

**ReTain: Producing Quality Ministries to Grow
Christians & Keep them Connected** (Part 3 in series)

“The Five Rs of Ministry” series

Cornerstone Community Church - Pastor Jerry Ernst - February 18, 2024

Scripture: Matthew 7:13-14; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1st Corinthians 15:58, Colossians 3:23; John 15:1-8, 16:1.

ReTain: (Webster’s dictionary) “to keep in possession or use, to keep in one's pay or service, to keep in mind or memory: remember; to hold secure or intact.”

Questions:

- 1) In a world competing for our loyalties, how do we keep Christians connected to the Christian faith - so they do not drop out?
- 2) How do we intentionally create quality in God’s Church to engage all ages to live for Jesus Christ?

Third “R” of Ministry - RETAIN – To work with excellence to produce quality, growing opportunities in God’s Church. Creating Biblical, relevant teaching, programs, & service – to keep the Christian engaged and growing.

KEY WORDS: Engaged, Connected, Quality, Intentional - in what we at CCC produce, prepare, and teach.

END GOAL: To retain people so they continue forward in their discipleship and growth, not dropping out of God’s Church.

Producing Quality Ministries to Grow Christians & Keep them Connected

(Matthew 7:13-14, Hebrews 10:24-25, Colossians 3:23, 1st Corinthians 15:58, John 15:1-8; 16:1)

1) ENGAGED - People will Choose one of two spiritual paths in life

Matthew 7:13-14 – “(13) Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. (14) But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Wide Road: Most people are on the wide path of the world’s road – it is easy.

Narrow Road: Few people enter the small gate that leads to eternal life – because it is hard and narrow.

- What are we doing as God’s Church to keep Christians engaged and on the narrow road?

2) CONNECTED - God calls all Christians to be active in a Church family to prevent dropping out (of the faith)

Hebrews 10:24-25 “(24) And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, (25) not **giving up** meeting together, as some are in the **habit** of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

GIVING UP: (Gk: egkataleipó): “**to leave behind**, (in a good sense) **let remain over or** (in a bad sense) or **desert.**” *KJV – “Let us not neglect”

HABIT: (Gk: *ethos*): “**custom, a usage**”

- The temptation is to drop out of God’s Church and be separated.

3) QUALITY - The Church strives for the highest quality because we do it for God

Colossians 3:17, 23 – “(17) *And whatever you do, whether word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him....* (23) *Whatever you do, work at it with all of your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*”

WORK AT IT: (Gk: *ergazomai*): “**I work, trade, do.**”

Usage: I work, perform, practice, commit, acquire by labor.

ALL OF YOUR HEART: (Gk: *psuché*): “**breath, the soul.**”

Usage: The human soul, the soul as the seat of affections & will.

1st Corinthians 15:58 “(58) *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*”

4) INTENTIONAL – If Christians do not Remain in Jesus Christ, their discipleship will not produce Christian fruit & Growth (John 15:1-8; 16:1)

- Abiding in Jesus produces stability in Christians, God’s Church, & the society around us.
- A Christian is either abiding in Jesus or growing apart from Christ.

To ReTain Christians for long term development means...

- 1) We must **PLAN AHEAD** to lead them.
- 2) We must **PREPARE INTENTIONALLY** to grow them.
- 3) We must **PRODUCE QUALITY** to impact them.
- 4) We must **PERSONALLY ENGAGE** to connect them.
- 5) We must **PURPOSELY RETAIN** to keep them.

Cornerstone Community Church

- Retaining Christians is not only for the immediate, but necessary for the eternal.
- Our preparation for God’s Church & ministry is a sacrifice & offering unto Jesus Christ.
- Prayer and purposeful preparation anoint the message about God’s Kingdom to impact people’s lives.
- When ministry is done with excellence, it is because someone took the time to prepare that ministry.