



A service of the  
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# Youth Supports

A resource to encourage and empower youth  
leaders for the expansion of the Lord's kingdom.

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- What's Best?
- E-Newsletter from Synod Youth Board

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## What's Best?

"Anyone who neglects to care for family members in need repudiates the faith. That's worse than refusing to believe in the first place."—1 Tim. 5:8 (*The Message*)

We are a culture of good things. We have more good things than any culture in the history of the world. We don't have many best things.

"How's your week been?" I ask a good friend of mine at church.

"Busy. Really busy. I've been working on this new project at work, and then when I get home I've got to run Sarah to basketball practice and Kyle has Scouts on Tuesday night and Wednesday night Sarah had a band concert and Thursday. . . ."

I interrupt gently, "How's your week been?"

"I'm tired." He says. "And next week is the same." I can see the look in his eyes. He's doing everything right. He loves his family. This guy isn't a home breaker. He's a home builder. But his home consists of doing a bunch of things that are really good for his wife and kids. But not best. In this culture, with all its good choices for families, the best gets left behind.

Circle the word that you think fits best in the following statement:

The church is a community of believers gathered around Christ's Word and Sacrament, living what is . . . a) good, or b) best.

We agree that life in Christ is best. But we often have trouble defining it in our day-to-day living. Will you agree with me—there's a HUGE quality difference between what is good and what is best?

In 1 Timothy 5, the Holy Spirit through Paul spends an extended amount of time and space telling Timothy what to do with the needs of the extended church family: widows, orphans, leaders, and so on. And right smack dab in the middle of all this is the command, the demand: "Anyone who neglects to care for family members in need repudiates the faith. That's worse than refusing to believe in the first place."

What!?? Worse than being an unbeliever? Yes--worse than refusing Christ. Why would the Holy Spirit feel so strongly about this? What is He trying to say? Let's apply it to the life of a church worker:

First things  
first—care  
for your  
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family.

This sounds  
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E-Newsletter  
from Board of  
Youth Ministry

1. First things first—care for your immediate family
2. This care spills over into your extended family, because there are no walls in the Body of Christ.
3. Therefore, the best way to care for the members of your church body is to care for your immediate family.

It might help to look at the Trinity for answers: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit enjoy a caring family relationship that is without a flaw. That's what we've been put into in Christ. If that's what's best, then how does it work out in our own families? As leaders in the Church? Does the Father want me working on this project one more hour, or spending valuable time with my wife on a date? Does the Son want me hanging out with one more youth this afternoon, or hanging out with my child in the pool? Does the Spirit want me comforting a hurting member late at night, or comforting my hurting daughter? It's a question of what's best, what comes first!

What do members of your church see when they look at the schedule of your life? Are they hearing "Do what I say, not what I do!" from you? Are you doing many good things, but not what is best? I've got an old Chinese proverb on my wall that reads: "I hear and I forget; I see and I remember; I do and I understand." Which is better: to model or to speak? Probably both, but modeling does more in the long run, doesn't it?

I'm trying to provide Biblical (and Chinese!) justification for changing the essential culture of your extended family at Church: What would it take for you to say "No!" to the pile of things on your desk, the four needy youth on your call list, the task-force of gifted people who can do it without you, and "Yes!" to jumping in your car, busting through the door at home, and yelling, "I'm yours today!"

That sounds so good, I'm leaving right now!

(After two weeks family vacation, and a bunch of dates with his wife, Dustin hopes to address this subject in more detail in a future Youth Supports article: *3 Steps to Choosing Best over Good.*)

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Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

[http://www.nowlcms.org/educational\\_services/NetworkingMinistries/YouthSupports.aspx](http://www.nowlcms.org/educational_services/NetworkingMinistries/YouthSupports.aspx)

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## E-Newsletter from Synod Board of Youth Ministry

The Board of Youth ministry for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a monthly e-bulletin with youth ministry information. To subscribe to it, go to <http://www.lcms.org/enews/> and follow the directions.

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