



Christian School Insights

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A Few Good Men

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Most people have heard the Marine's enlistment call, "A Few Good Men." The implication was that "a few" good men would be enough. The same recruiting call was voiced by God to Gideon, when the call went out to 32,000 volunteers; from these only 300 were chosen by God to liberate Israel from the Midianites, who had carried away all the Israel's grain crops and had driven the people of Israel away from their villages and their farms.

Today, God is calling out for a group of men who would be willing to enter the Christian school battle. If you are a male Christian educator, serving in Christian school, I commend you for accepting the battle call. God has placed you at your Christian school for reasons that goes beyond a job used to support your family (those that have families). Almost everyone could find employment in other schools and business for more money and some have left your Christian school for this reason.

The lack of male figures in the classroom is not just a Christian school issue, it is evident in public schools as well. Some point to the need to raise the "profession's profile so that it's more valued in the public eye" as presented by Lisa Kadane in *Today's Parent* (May, 2016). Others feel that by adding males it will provide a better "gender balanced workforce" or "to offer different points

of view." Furthermore, a male can "provide a positive role model of a father figure for students who come from single-parent families" (Harford Courant, 2014).

Why does God need you in Christian education? The reason goes beyond those mentioned above or to bring academic excellence or to be coaches: it is to effect change in the life of every single student that comes to your school and to train students to be champions for Christ. This can be more evident in a Christian school setting where the male teacher has an opportunity to fully exercise not only the professional authority given to him by the school board, but the spiritual authority God has given him.

The presence of a male in any setting commands attention. Males bring courage to the classroom. God has placed men in Christian schools to be the godly male image that students need to see. Men need to exercise their leadership as godly men and to set the example in word and in deed.

Professional Authority

Classrooms where professional authority is evident are ones where teachers have turned good order into habit. Authority in the classroom means consistent routines where there are clear directions for acceptable behavior. Teachers exercise professional authority immediately to correct deviations from the expected, acceptable

behavior. Being just, standing firm in one's convictions, braving unpopularity with students and parents and exercising tact are salient characteristics of teachers who walk in professional authority. Professional authority is enhanced when a teacher is good natured and has a likeable disposition. This authority is enhanced when the teacher is a godly man.

Spiritual Authority

As men, you need to be the priest not just of our families but of your classrooms and to bring spiritual authority to bear in the lives of your students. You have been given power to confront inappropriate attitudes, behavior or speech. It is God's intent for teachers to rule and reign in the classroom, hallways, cafeteria, sports fields. As men, with this authority comes spiritual power to act.

Utilize all of these authorities to pull down strongholds in the lives of your students: fear, lying, anger, stealing, bad attitudes, impure thoughts, drugs, alcohol, abuse, disobedience, to name a few. As a man, it is time for you to stand strong for righteousness and train your students to be champions for Christ.