

came, "not to be ministered unto, but to minister," and when He came in contact with weary and hungry souls He did not instruct His disciples merely to "entertain them," but he said "Give ye them to eat." The mission of the Church is not centered in self. It is indicated in the words of its Master, "Go ye unto all the world and preach the Gospel."

In the community the congregation must make its influence felt through its members. An aggressive work is incumbent upon it in beating back the rising tide of indifference and godlessness in the State and in helping on such measures of reform as tend to the uplifting of mankind and the establishment of the Kingdom of Righteousness.

The pastor stands for God before his people and ministers to the congregation in spiritual things. Let the young people give to him their hearty support. Let them speak a word of commendation to others as they meet them. And when his words have helped you, tell it to some one else. A hearty spirit of loyalty to the pastor will do as much as anything to make a congregation strong and useful. The young people can do a great deal along this line.

In the mission work of the congregation let the young people recognize the general Missionary Committee of the congregation and work in harmony with it. Let the missionary funds contributed go through the general funds raised by the congregation; and should there be special collections for specific purposes let them be reported to the missionary treasurer of the church.

When the church is called upon for any aggressive work in the community, such as the defence of the Sabbath or the putting down of intemperance, let the young people offer themselves at once for service to any church committee appointed. This readiness to act may help the congregation in rallying to the assistance of the few who on nearly every such occasion have to bear the brunt of the battle.

The mid-week prayer meetings are often one of the disappointing things in connection with congregational life. According to the statistics of the Blue Book only about one in five of our church members attend such. Let our young people be there and volunteer to act as ushers should the pastor think that helpful. It sometimes seems as if we never expected a stranger to come to our prayer-meetings. We fill all the back seats and then expect any stranger to walk unasked and unattended to the front. Perhaps your pastor could use some of his young people in this way and, in any degree the prayer-meeting is helped, the congregation is benefitted.

In all the assistance volunteered let the young people recognize the properly constituted authorities in the congregation.

Those elected to office either as elders or managers have the responsibility of such office resting upon them, and it will only cause friction when the young people in their zeal, or thoughtlessness perhaps, attempt to usurp their authority.

Let the young people ever remember that in strengthening the congregation of which their society is a part they are helping the whole church. The Presbyterian Church is not simply a lot of fragments, but one compact, organized body. As individuals we best help on the business of the world by each one minding his or her own business. Let the object of our Young People's Societies be to make strong and vigorous the congregation in which it is and the whole church will be thereby strengthened and invigorated.

THE DISHONESTY OF DEBT.

I have more than once, says W. J. Dawson, seen young men come to grief through loose notions about money. They have begun in a very commonplace way by letting their expenditure exceed their income, perhaps by five or ten dollars. They have formed friendships with those whose means exceed their own, and have tried to keep pace with them. They have fallen into little extravagances of habit and these have grown till the amount of money spent is mere waste in the course of a year has become considerable and serious. At last they have discovered that they are deep in debt, and have seen no way of getting out of debt. Then misery lays hold upon them, and in many cases crime; from all of which they would have been saved if they had stuck to the principle that all debt is dishonest.

We all remember the aphorism of Mr. McCawber on this theme: Earn twenty shillings a week and spend nineteen—Happiness! Earn twenty shillings a week and spend twenty-one—Misery! To live within one's income is not only a prudent thing, it is a right thing, and a necessary thing, and the smaller the income the greater is the necessity. Let a young man cut off every extravagance and deny himself even food rather than plunge himself into debt in the foolish hope that things will come right some day. To the man of fine conscience there is a sense of degradation in debt. He knows that the debtor is nothing more or less than a thief. He is deliberately keeping in his own pocket that which ought to be in somebody else's pocket. He has sold himself into slavery to his creditor. The clothes on his back are not his own, and the very meal he eats is stolen. To the upright man such a condition of things is torturing and intolerable, and that is what every youth ought to feel.