

LET WE WHO TEACH EXAMINE OURSELVES

By Donald Townsley

One of the greatest responsibilities that a man or woman can undertake is the work of teaching God's word, and the teacher who realizes his responsibility will want to continue to improve himself. Let us look at some areas which may need improvement.

We may need physical improvement. By physical, I mean we may be nervous or irritable. If this be the case, we have a definite handicap as a teacher. Our students soon find this out and become uneasy and afraid to ask questions that they would like to ask for fear they will get their "heads snapped off". A nervous teacher who cannot express what he means and is always "playing with something" makes his students nervous, causing them to get their minds off what he is teaching. A teacher who speaks so low that his students have trouble hearing does not do the job of teaching that he could do if he would talk just a little louder.

Some of us who teach may need social improvement. I mean by "social improvement" the ability to get along with others. A person who cannot get along with his fellow-man is never going to be able to do an effective job of teaching. The inability to get along can be a very serious handicap to one who aspires to be a teacher. Many good men in the pulpit have been total failures as preachers because of their inability to get along with people.

Some may need improvement in the spiritual realm. No teacher can be effective in his teaching who does not try to live what he teaches to the very best of his ability. One who does not live what he teaches brings shame and reproach on the cause he is trying to advance. Also, an insufficient knowledge of the word of God will result in a poor job of teaching -- all of us can use improvement here.

(From "The Expounder", February 1964)