

RENEWAL AND THE CLASSROOM

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Introduction

Any student that sets foot on any theological education field should, himself or herself, experience renewal. Even before entering into the theological education arena, one should have already experienced God's changing power in his/her life.

The role of theological education is to equip one in God's mission, and to deepen one's newly-found Christian faith towards maturity.

There are two particular areas I wish to share in this paper concerning renewal and the classroom.

1. Personal renewal among students and staff; and
2. Classroom renewal, through students and staff.

Personal Renewal

“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil 1:21)

This is a personal statement of faith. The most important thing, in the whole process of renewal, is for one to experience, and practically live, a kind of life that is buried in the life of Christ. Becoming one, who would confidently confess that Christ is in total control of his/her life, and, practically, show that confession in his/her daily lifestyle.

Among Students

Renewed Christian life, among students in theological educational institutions, is very important. Student life on campus should reflect Christian renewal. This should be seen in their life together, in sharing of both material and spiritual wealth.

Students living together in theological colleges should be seen as living real lifestyles, rather than experimental types of lifestyle. Renewal of the student should also be a shared vision, rather than one's own vision and struggle.

Among Staff

The practical lifestyle of the staff, in theological college life, is of great importance.

Renewal among the staff can have a lot of influence upon student life. Renewal through the staff, either through classroom lectures, or community life, can only be seen in reality, when the Holy Spirit of God is at work.

The lectures presented in the classroom are supposed to activate renewal. The staff should also share any vision for renewal. At the same time, it is true that God cannot be limited by our college structures. Each individual staff member should experience renewal before there can be campus renewal.

The college's student body, as well as the staff body, is made up of many persons. In these two separate bodies, there are individuals. For these bodies to experience renewal, there must first be individual renewal.

Classroom Renewal

Every lecture that is presented in the classroom should be able to activate renewal. Classroom renewal should not only be for students, but for staff as well. It is good to fill one's mind with a lot of theological knowledge, but what good is it, if one does not live it out, practically – in real life?

Through the Students

The influence of student renewal on campus can travel through student-to-student and student-to-staff contact. One student can openly talk about personal renewal, experienced in his/her life, through classroom lectures to fellow students and the staff.

But the question I have often had trouble with is: How many of one's fellow students, and the staff, would be willing to share in one's renewal and vision?

Through the Staff

The staff are supposed to be channels of renewal, through their personal lives, and lectures presented in the classroom. Seriousness of renewal can be effective upon student life, if the attitude of the staff is serious. I believe that, at times, we have some kind of attitude problem towards renewal.