

Deciding To Become A CM Director or Not

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God always “bumps up” those who are faithful and passionate in ministry. No matter what your ministry is, you can almost guarantee that you will be given the opportunity to do more or to lead more people. When you face this wonderful challenge, you need to seek God about the possibilities. Make sure you are not letting your ego, or your fears drive your decision! You must “hear” God’s voice and move in His will.



Every opportunity is not necessarily a calling. Just because you CAN do something doesn’t mean that you are CALLED to do it. Considering the “open door” in front of you is a serious and spiritual matter. Here are some thoughts:

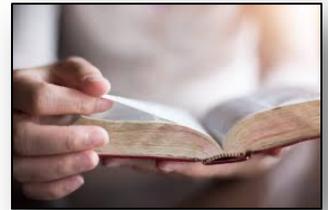
- Your primary "calling" is to further the Gospel message (Matthew 28: 19-20) - all believers share that "Great Commission"!
- God often "shapes" people through various experiences and ministries before he/she "settles into" the "right" ministry position.
- God wants to bless and use someone whose "heart" is totally His (2Chron. 16:9) - He may shift you to various ministries or jobs from time to time.
- If you have given your life to God, He is not going to offer you something that "confuses" His plans for you. If a "door" opens, walk through it (unless, of course, to do so would be to dishonor or offend God). This is where you need to seek God for discernment.
- If you decide to become a CM Director, you will “step away” from much of what you are currently doing. You may continue to do the same things for a short time, but eventually you’ll have to pass what you are currently doing on to someone else. Do you have a peace about doing that?
- When faced with a serious decision, use the "counsel of many" to help you discern God's will (Prov. 11:14). Ask a small number of godly people who know you (family, friends, etc.) about this decision. Listen to them as they give you counsel.
- What do you have to offer this position? How would your gifts and talents improve the children's ministry? If you can make a difference, jump in and do it!
- You will experience an extreme change in the "setting" of your ministry! As a CM Director, you will be on the “top” of the CM, but you will also face significant challenges and even persecution. Your joy will have to come from within - knowing that your work is facilitating those CM volunteers in the classrooms. They are the "stars"! The "deep joy" of empowering volunteers and blessing children has to be enough for you.
- To direct a CM, you have to be a strong leader who is able to correct and possibly "fire" volunteers, while also being a gentle encourager to those who need support. You have to be able to "take a hit" for the children in the face of the senior pastor (fight for the CM), while still serving submissively and obediently. You have to be tough and kind at the same time. This takes confidence. Do you have enough?



This decision has to do with your specific calling and passion. You want to serve the Lord with all your heart, but you need to discern what He wants! That's where "the counsel of many" comes in. If you are married, your husband or wife is your primary source of counsel here! What does he/she think? God could be calling you to take this position as "the next step" in your training! It's not bad to be "stretched beyond your comfort zone."

The children's ministry is possibly the largest and most crucial ministry of the church. The person who directs it takes on a significant responsibility! A "mistake" in the CM affects parents, children, team members, and possibly the whole church. I agree with the principle that says, "With great power comes great responsibility." This statement is used in the Spiderman movies, but it was also referenced in 1817 by William Lamb, a member of the British Parliament. I believe both Peter Parker and William Lamb are actually referring to what Jesus said in Luke 12:48 *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from him who has been entrusted with much, even more will be demanded."* Are you ready to take on (with God's help and power) this great responsibility?

Our human "confidence" must come from our calling. Paul made a great statement about this in Philippians 1:4-6, *"I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* Paul was confident in his calling, and therefore he was confident in his ministry work. You may face challenges that force you to feel incompetent; but, if your confidence is in the Lord and His calling on your life, you will act on that confidence and not on your own fears.



Are you confident enough to lead people? Do you have a vision for what the CM could be? Do you weep for the condition of children? These are important questions.

The "Bottom Line"

God wants you to develop a set of life priorities. He wants you to put Him first in your life. He wants you to be willing to follow Him all the way, and even to death. BUT, if you have a family, or if you are married, you must consider your spouse and your family in this decision as well.

Those people who are married and who serve the Lord carry the added responsibility of caring for their family while also serving the Lord. God makes this clear when He states the requirements for a "Deacon," "Bishop," or "overseer" in 1 Timothy 3:1-5,

"The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore, an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?"

If you are married, or have children, you must consider your family first. To take on a new responsibility that may not be good for your family is serious. Your "home" (marriage and family) must not suffer because you are now the CM Director! If that happens, then this verse in 1 Timothy clearly says that you will not be fit to lead the ministry.



You have to "count the cost" of this decision and follow God's leading. When you seek God with all of your heart, you will find Him! (Jeremiah 29:13)