

## Me Too

Being a Youth Pastor, I am expected, and rightly so, to be pouring into students. However, I have found times in my life in ministry where I find myself empty, and unable to pour out any more to anyone. As the VCN Midwest Youth Pastor Collaboration grows, one pillar of the foundation for the collaboration is ensuring Youth Pastors can be poured into, allowing them to best pour into students. Ministry is not meant to be an island, and as one of my graduate professors would say, when you stop learning you start dying. Whether freshly out of college or a seasoned Youth Pastor, we need people in our life encouraging, growing, and mentoring us. If you are blessed to have a Senior Pastor who can mentor you, that is amazing. However, I have learned from personal experience and from other Youth Pastors, that expecting your Senior Pastor to be your mentor can be an unrealistic expectation. Wisely seeking out a Paul and Timothy relationship is essential but can be easily pushed to the back burner.



My encouragement to Youth Pastors would be to prioritize seeking and maintaining a mentor in your life. A Mentor needs to care for you personally and your ministry. A good mentor can press into any one word answers you give and is strong enough to hold you accountable in weak areas of your life. Paul shows us this example in the first few verses of 1 Timothy.

*1 Timothy 1:1-5 “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”*

Paul cares deeply for Timothy and the ministry Timothy oversees. It is from this place of care; Paul calls Timothy to rise into leadership in difficult situations that needed to be dealt with. DO you have a Paul in your life?

*Chuck Babbitt, Youth Pastor  
Bloomer Baptist Church, Bloomer, WI*