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*Ontario Men's Retreat*  
*September 11, 2010*  
*Montreal, PQ*

## Movement: Looking to the Future

### I. Movement

- a. One person can make a difference*
- b. Two of the same mind are even better*
- c. But there is no telling what can be done with thousands, or even millions who are committed to the same goal*
- d. That is the marvel of movement*
- e. As Geoff said yesterday, interesting history (not boring history) involves the stories and details of people, these same kind of elements that make our lives interesting*
  - i. Discovering things about their dynamic and interaction with others*
  - ii. The details of their context*
  - iii. Their aspirations and dreams*
  - iv. Their beliefs*
- f. Movement requires these same elements, but activated in the present, and looking to the future*
  - i. This is to say that movement does not happen in isolation or in stagnation*
  - ii. A movement needs to be dynamic - interacting on all levels with both its:*
    - 1. Past*
    - 2. Present*
    - 3. And engaging those in the future*
  - iii. A movement needs to speak to its context*

1. *It needs to answer questions that people are asking*
2. *It needs to cultivate awareness of the its surroundings*
3. *It needs to offer the invitation to be a part of something that makes a difference*
- iv. *That difference needs to be manifested in captivating aspirations and dreams - in other words, a vision*

## II. Members of a Movement

- a. *That said, we are members of a movement*
- b. *Participants in an existing dynamic*
  - i. *Look around you right now - this is movement*
  - ii. *This is a particular element to our dynamic*
- c. *But the question for us, as we come to the close of this weekend, and move back into our individual contexts, until we all meet again next year is: Shall we keep moving?*
- d. *I'd like to suggest this morning that we can, and we must*
- e. *Now, I cannot give the magic formula or fairy dust, or the sophisticated fix-all answer, but I do believe that, collectively, we need to take into consideration several things as we step forward - and consideration them seriously*

### *I. Movement Means Interaction:*

- a. *With those who came before us*
  - i. *We are not born into vacuums*
  - ii. *But we all have inherited a faith from those who came before us*
    1. *Whether we grew up in the church*
    2. *Or whether we were brought into the church through the influence of someone else*
  - iii. *But whatever the case, we cannot escape the influence of those who came before us*
    1. *Good*

2. *Bad*

- iv. *One of the issues that Geoff and I hoped to focus on this weekend was our identity, and our identity is closely tied to those from whom we have received our faith*
- v. *Yet to ignore their contributions and challenges is to, at least in part, take for granted what we have received*
- vi. *We say "history repeats itself", history is not cyclical, it is linear, just as time is linear*
- vii. *Nevertheless, it is in our best interests to*
  - 1. *Interact with them*
  - 2. *Learn from them*
  - 3. *Sensitively critique them*
  - 4. *And take the results of all that and carefully apply it to ourselves*
- viii. *Additionally, Restoration is not simply going back to the beginning, to the NT- that is*
  - 1. *Restoration is not a-historical*
  - 2. *It is affected by the influence of our immediate and less-immediate past*
- ix. *Ever ask, "Why are we the way we are?"*
  - 1. *Part of the answer is to examine our immediate past*
- x. *So, as we move forward, we must have interaction with those who came before us*

b. *With those whom we will leave behind*

- i. *Whether you are 16 or 65, you exert an influence*
- ii. *And the influence that we want to establish with those in our immediate context, and ultimately with those whom we will leave behind is a positive one*
- iii. *That said, we need to pay careful attention to how we give that influence, and it needs to come in **words and actions** that are*
  - 1. *Given intentionally*

2. *Given in love*
- iv. *Again, "Why do we do what we do?"*
- v. *"Why do we say what we say?"*
- vi. *"Why do we believe what we believe?"*
- vii. *"What are the implications upon us to do, say, and believe these things?"*
- viii. *We cannot take these matters and questions lightly because there are always eyes upon us*
  1. *And I don't say that so that we act out of fear or compulsion*
  2. *But rather, that people observe whether something is worthwhile to us by the attention that we give to it*
- ix. *So we ought to practice restoration with conviction, intentionally*
- x. *And express our convictions to those around us with love, intentionally*
- c. *With those with whom we may differ*
  - i. *Primarily say this to indicate our interactions with those within our own fellowship, but it also applies*
    1. *Those in other faith groups who may be asking the same questions*
    2. *To the larger lost of the world*
  - ii. *Conflict and disagreement can sometimes be good*
  - iii. *In terms of The Restoration Movement, these situations can help crystallize the concept that much more in our minds when we must answer questions and/or our opponents*
  - iv. *But in communicating ourselves, the key thing to not forget here is: dialogue*
    1. *And as James says in 1:19, "Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry."*
    2. *We are sometimes quick or too apt to make judgment calls that are not ours to make when differences arise*
    3. *But when differences arise, it is our obligation to work hard, to work hard, hard, hard at reconciliation, at finding agreement, and to be of one mind*

v. *And so I say, "Let us not be more eager to be right than to be reconciled"*

a. *I say this as an attitude, and not to discredit our commitment to truth*

b. *And so, I say this realizing that we cannot always, nor should we always be reconciled with everyone on all points*

c. *But it is to say that we ought to be eager to seek the unity that Jesus prayed for in his high-priestly prayer in John 17 - "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you."*

vi. *Let's talk it out*

d. *With ourselves*

i. *What I mean is that we need to have dialogue with ourselves*

ii. *We need to ask ourselves difficult questions and be honest with ourselves*

1. *Which is exactly what our forebears did themselves*

2. *They were not satisfied with the status quo, and we can't be either*

3. *Whether that means we arrive at the same conclusions or not is one thing*

iii. *But we need to continue to examine ourselves*

iv. *And it essentially means that, in a sense, we are continually seeking to be closer to God and his will*

e. *With God*

i. *I've saved this interaction for last because I do believe it is the most important, and gives us the greatest potential to keep moving*

ii. *We must have interaction with God*

1. *Through his word*

2. *In prayer*

iii. *As we have expressed over the last few lessons, God has revealed his will for us in his Word*

iv. *And it is a double-edged sword, living and active, penetrating to divide soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart - Heb. 4:12*

- v. *If we are serious students of God's word, it will cut us, and it will cause us to do something about it - it causes us to move!*
  - 1. *They were cut to the heart*
  - 2. *And they asked, "Brothers, what shall we do?"*
- vi. *Additionally, at around 2:00 last night, Paul, Sean, myself and Geoff were discussing the "power of prayer" as expressed in Jesus' teaching about moving mountains and having faith*
- vii. *Our dependence upon God in prayer will keep us asking for*
  - 1. *God's wisdom*
  - 2. *God's strength*
  - 3. *God's vision*
  - 4. *God's forgiveness*
  - 5. *What we are asking for is God's movement within us!*
- viii. *A Restorationist recognizes from searching the Scriptures that restoration means communication with God*
  - 1. *In Word*
  - 2. *In Prayer*

## II. Two Conditions

### a. Continually

- i. *If we desire that we should have movement in Restoration, it must begin with ourselves*
  - 1. *We cannot depend upon the movement of the past*
  - 2. *And we cannot wait for those ahead of us to move*
  - 3. *We must move ourselves, and continually seek restoration ourselves*
- ii. *As Geoff mentioned last night, Restoration is unfinished until Christ returns*
  - 1. *We must remember that nothing will be perfect, no achievements will last forever*

2. *Until Christ returns*

5. *In Christ*

i. *The danger is that we limit our focus*

1. *Are we looking for our movement*

2. *No, we are looking to advance into God's plan*

ii. *We must maintain the focus on Christ*

iii. *We have mentioned identity*

1. *Let us never, ever, ever forget that our identity is ultimately found in Christ*