



CAMPUS
MINISTRY
TODAY

HOW ACTIVE SHOULD I BE IN MY CHAPTER?

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You should be one of the most active members in your chapter! I spent so much time around my fraternity that I got the nickname "Active Ike".

It didn't take many days into pledgship my freshman year to realize that many of my pledge brothers didn't know or follow Christ. So I made a decision: I would not only live in the house, I would also eat most meals at the house, attend every chapter meeting and almost every social event.

Living in the Greek house

I had the opportunity to live in the fraternity house as a freshman pledge, but times have changed and I realize that's not a reality on today's campus. But what about your sophomore year? I lived across the street from the frat house my sophomore and junior year but decided to move back in my senior year. It was one of my best years of ministry! Suddenly, I was around dozens of guys who could see if I actually lived out the Christian life all the time.

Chapter meetings

"They don't care how much you know until they know you care" I have heard that saying countless times over the years and I agree 100%. I know that some of the things said at chapter meetings are less than holy and do not help you grow in Christ. But remember, it is not about you. It is about you being there for you brothers or sisters. Also, chapter meetings gave me the opportunity to do regular short devotions with the guys. I wouldn't bring my Bible, but would read from our ritual book. Most of you have godly founders who placed multiple passages of scriptures in your ritual book.

Pre-games, band parties, functions and late nights

If you Google my article, "Would Jesus have been in a Fraternity" you can read my case for being active in your chapter. One key verse I quote is from Matthew 11:19, "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'" These derogatory statements were most likely made by the Pharisees to belittle him, but Jesus didn't mind being associated with sinners! However, remember that Jesus was perfect and would have known when to go to a party and how long to stay. If you know that inappropriate things will take place after a certain time, plan to leave. I had many spiritual

conversations with my fellow brothers at parties. As far as alcohol goes, just remember that if they see you holding a beer, they will not know if it is your first or your sixth. I made a decision to fast from alcohol while I was living in the house because I didn't want to do anything to cause a brother to stumble (1 Corinthians 10).

If you don't remember anything else, remember this: You need to have balance in your life! You cannot survive as a lone ranger Christian in your Greek house. In my 29 years of working with Greeks, I have seen a lot of Christians make one bad decision that cost them the respect of being a spiritual leader in their chapters.

Final thoughts:

1. You need to attend a good Bible-believing church.
2. You need to find a solid campus ministry so that you can have fellowship with other believers because there may be very few in your chapter.
3. You need to attend a regular small group Bible study where you can be held accountable in your walk with the Lord.
4. It is my experience that many Christians go inactive their senior year due to a serious relationships or to build up their resume. Yet this is the time that could be the most influential!
5. Remember there may never be a time when you are around so many non-believers who can know you well and allow you the opportunity to share the gospel with them.