

10-16-16
THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY

Text:

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

This month is missions month. Thus we focus in on supporting missionaries who are spreading the gospel around the world. However, without a strong home base, how can we send missionaries out to represent us? In other words, we need to be doing locally what we are supporting other preachers to do where we cannot go! In other words we need to be missionaries to our local community or there is no use sending out missionaries. It must start here first:

THE MINISTRY IS USUALLY AN EXPRESSION THAT IS USED TO DESCRIBE PEOPLE WHO HAVE GONE TO BIBLE COLLEGE AND TAKEN A FULL OR PART TIME POSITION IN A CHURCH AS EITHER A PASTOR, ASSISTANT PASTOR, YOUTH PASTOR, MINISTER OF MUSIC, OR CHRISTIAN SCHOOL TEACHER. Usually we differentiate between those who we think of as being in the ministry from those who we traditionally refer to as as not being in the ministry (i.e. lay people). This whole concept is so engrained in us because of 1700 years of Roman Catholicism.

This idea is totally foreign to the Bible.

This common definition of "THE MINISTRY" is totally different then that which the Bible speaks about.

The truth is that every Christian that does not have a ministry is out of the will of God.

1 Corinthians 16:15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

Colossians 4:17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY
DETERMINING YOUR WORK OF THE MINISTRY

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

**I. THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY INVOLVES SERVING.
WHAT IS THE MINISTRY?**

**1. NOTE: WHAT THE WORD MINISTRY MEANS.
We can trace the greek word through the Strong's Greek dictionary.**

diakonia, dee-ak-on-ee'-ah; from 1249; attendance (as a servant, etc.); fig. (eleemosynary) aid, (official) service (espec. of the Chr. teacher, or techn. of the diaconate):-*(ad-) minister (-ing, -tration, -try), office, relief, service (-ing).*

----- Dictionary Trace -----
diakonos, dee-ak'-on-os; prob. from an obs. diako (to run on errands; comp. 1377); an attendant, i.e. (gen.) a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); spec. a Chr. teacher and pastor (techn. a deacon or deaconess):-*deacon, minister, servant.*

Word simply means to SERVE, TO ATTEND TO, TO WAIT ON,
The Greek word for deacon.

Pastor is to be a waiter or servant for God.
We are all to be servants of God!
We are all to be in the ministry.

In fact heaven will be filled only with servants or ministers of God!

2. YOU ARE CALLED TO A MINISTRY.

Every saved person is to be a servant of Jesus Christ:

Romans 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

I Peter 4:10 **As every man hath received the gift, even so minister** the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

If you are saved, God has saved you to do a work for Him.
This work is your ministry.

BEZALEEL AND AHOLIAB needed to be filled and called of God to do the work of the ministry of making the tabernacle in the wilderness! They were not of the tribe of Levi, yet they had this ministry! Bezaleel was from the tribe of Judah, and Aholiab was from the tribe of Dan. They were tradesmen but they were needed to serve the Lord and for the service of the Lord!

Exodus 36:1 Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded.

We all need to be good stewards of the talents and abilities God has given us for the work of the ministry.

DISCOVERING YOUR MINISTRY

II. A BIBLICAL MINISTRY IS TO BE DIRECTED OF THE LEADERS GOD SET OVER YOU:

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

He gave some..... Who did he give to you?

Note the Plurality of leaders - just as God works through the preaching of the Word of God in salvation, so too He works with the preaching of the Word of God in dedication and spiritual perfection. This is why I often bring in guest speakers to share the Word of God with you. Each time I do I take a chance that maybe that guest speaker will say something different than me but I think the risk is worth the value of maybe having someone come at the truth of the Word of God at a different angle that may help you be perfected and provoked to be more faithful to the Lord and do the work of the ministry.

I can't tell you how many times I have had people say that the Lord spoke to them through a message preached by another preacher, yet I have said the same thing, I don't know how many times. I am not offended I rejoice! The goal is to get people submitted to the word of God.

Reminds me of Moses when he anointed the 70 elders to minister and he prayed for them that the Spirit of God would anoint them. Then Joshua was upset that some other people prophesied outside of that group. Note what Moses said:

Numbers 11:27 And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp.

Numbers 11:28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.

Numbers 11:29 And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!

When everyone is on the same team you pass the ball to the one who is nearest the goal and can score. You rejoice when he scores the goal. Why? You are all on the same team and you all want to win.

In fact, Paul said there is no doubt that people may minister with the wrong motives but he rejoiced they were preaching and trying to win people to Christ. Phil 1:18

So the spirit of God fell on two men who were not among the 70 and Moses was happy. God decided to mark them out for this ministry also.

So Moses chose 70 Elders to share the work of the ministry. God chose out two more. So it is God that directs and calls. In His way in His direction.

I think of my call. I just didn't decide to be a Pastor. I was directed of the leaders God placed over me.

Pastor Don, Keith Rose, men in college.
I fought against it at first.
But God made me miserable until I surrendered to Him.

Did Jonah call himself to Nineveh? When he refused to go, what did God do?
I personally believe God's call is an effectual call.

Everyone has a ministry and the way God wants you to discover that ministry is you submit to the leadership God has placed over you.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

I believe the first step to discovering God's call in your life is to submit to the authorities God has placed over you.

PEOPLE WANT TO DISCOVER THEIR MINISTRY BEFORE THEY SUBMIT TO LEADERSHIP.

This reminds me of the man that wants to live with a woman before he commits himself to the marriage contract.

IT IS WRONG!

Too many people want to direct themselves in a work of the ministry....

Did David anoint himself?
Did Saul anoint himself?
Did Elijah call himself?

The only ones truly called of Christ were the ones he said to FOLLOW ME.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Matthew 8:19 And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

Matthew 8:20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

Matthew 8:21 And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

Matthew 8:22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

DOES THE SERVANT TELL THE MASTER WHAT HE IS TO DO
OR
DOES THE MASTER TELL THE SERVANT?

So it is in the Church. We need to be directed of the Lord. He is the master and He chooses to use leadership so things could be done decently and in order.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

God uses His word to unify us for this work!

God uses His word to direct us in this work!

God uses His word to perfect us to do this work!

Those who will not submit to the Word of God are not fit to do the work of the ministry!

Note what the Bible says, God gave spiritual leaders for the perfecting of the saints .. for the work of the ministry.

Some think that the text says that the Pastor work is to perfect the saints. Yes, that is true but that is not what the text says.

The text says, God gave a Pastor to perfect the saints, which are the church members, so they can do the work of the ministry.

YOU CANNOT SERVE UNTIL YOU GROW AND ARE PERFECTED.

How long does it take for a child to be profitable to do work?

So it takes time.

It takes growth.

It takes work.

It takes maturity.

BUT NONE OF IT CAN HAPPEN IF A PERSON DOES NOT SUBMIT TO BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP IN AND THROUGH THE LOCAL CHURCH!

**III. AFTER A PERSON IS SUBMITTED TO THE LEADERSHIP GIVEN OF GOD
THEN A PERSON MUST BE PERFECTED AND PREPARED FOR A MINISTRY.**

Jesus with the 12, it took him 3 years to train them.

They were under preaching and teaching every day for 3.5 years. They lived with the Lord!

No preparation no real fruit.

Matthew 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

People today want to serve God but they are not really prepared to do so!

This is why we have workers meetings.

If the 12 had not sacrificed some things in the world to prepare for the ministry Christ called them to, they could never have fulfilled that ministry.

Too many people are unwilling to sacrifice to be prepared for the special ministry God called them to.

Directed of leaders.

Available for preparation.

IV. THE MINISTRY WILL INVOLVE WORK. IT IS THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY.

When does a person stop playing games and start putting their necks to the work of the ministry?

The same time that a child puts away childish things.

I Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

They do so when they become spiritually mature.

When it ceases to be fun many quit the ministry.

Work of the ministry.

What is work? It involves pain, strain, difficulty,
NO PAIN, NO GAIN.

The quality of a work is often measured directly by the amount of strain and pain it includes.

Blessed is the man that finds joy in doing the work God called them to do.
There will be a reward someday for our labor for the Lord:

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Every work will someday bring rewards.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

If you are looking for party time mentality then you are not looking for a ministry.

Now think about this, it is the job of the Pastor to perfect the saints for the work of the ministry.

Yet many of the saints don't want to work for the Lord. So the job of the preacher is to motivate and provoke you and perfect you and encourage you to do the work of the ministry.

BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS THAT WORK? AND WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

V. THE MINISTRY THAT GOD HAS FOR YOU WILL INVOLVE BUILDING UP HIS CHURCH.

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, **for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Some people are not fulfilled in doing what fulfills the need of the Church.

That work may involve many mundane things - cleaning the church, mowing grass, teaching a Sunday School class, singing in the choir, being an usher, visiting, or witnessing. Wherever you are needed to build the work of God is the ministry god has for you

Picture the angels of Heaven.

Jesus assigns one of them to guard the tree of life in the garden of Eden.

What if that angel says, "I'd rather be looking over Adam personally, I think that is a more important job."

What gives you the right to decide where you are needed?

That is not ministry or serving, diakonos, when you are Lording over what you want to do. Who do we serve, yourself or Jesus Christ?

Who is the Lord of your life, Jesus or yourself?

TOO MANY UNION CHRISTIANS.

Imagine if next Sunday Pastor Bissol decided to go on strike?

Yet we have had many a mutiny in different departments in the church because the going got tough!

VI. YOUR MINISTRY MUST BE UNDER GIRDED BY SOUND DOCTRINE.

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Tossed too and fro by every wind of doctrine.

Our God is a God of common sense, and law and order.

I Timothy 3:14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:

I Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

In the qualifications for ministers, we shouldn't violate these principles of sound doctrine.

David set out to bring the ark to Jerusalem.

He wanted to serve the Lord.

He wanted to do the work of the ministry.

He failed to do one thing, and that was read His Bible to see how God wanted Him to do it!

I Chronicles 13:9 And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled.

I Chronicles 13:10 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.

I Chronicles 15:2 Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever.

I Chronicles 15:3 And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it.

The Lord told the children of Israel that they were to respect the authority of the ministers he ordained. He set them as rulers and judges and if there was a controversy, they were to go to the Priests and Levites and Judges and they were to decide over controversies. And if they disrespected their authority the penalty was death. So UZZA died because he and King David took it upon themselves to bring up the ark and overstep the authority of the priests. They did so presumptuously.

Deuteronomy 17:12 And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel.

We must strive lawfully.

II Timothy 2:5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

I Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

The Lord gave teachers preachers spiritual leaders to lead and guide and teach the Word of God so we do not do things presumptuously so we do not go astray and do every man what is right in their own eyes. Everyone has his ideas. Everyone has his thoughts.

If God punished King David for bringing up the Ark presumptuously

If God punished Uzziah when he presumed to burn incense and violate biblical mandates and the authority established by God.. he became leprous .

So too do we think God will excuse us when we go our own way and do what we think is right in our own eyes?

VII. THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY INVOLVES THAT WHICH IS BENEFICIAL TO THE BODY OF CHRIST.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY?

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The Lord wants to build His church up.

The Lord wants His church to be a healthy church spiritually.

The Lord Likens the Church to a body and that body has many members.

Eye, ear, foot, nose, etc. Each has it's place and each has a purpose but each one is there for the benefit of the whole. When one member suffers the whole body suffers.

We should all have the same love and care for each other.. this is the goal of the ministry, the health of the body.

To minister to the body.

To strengthen the body.

To nurture the body.

To feed the body.

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Making increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love!

What is the goal of the work of the ministry? The end goal is this:

1. BENEFITING THE BODY INVOLVES THE INCREASING OF THE BODY.

Making increase of the body, that the body would increase.

Do you know I see a sad thing happens to those who have no heart to minister, but all they want to do is be ministered unto.

These do not rejoice when the body increases. They resent when the body increases, when new people get saved and become part of the body. When people have no heart for ministry they could not care less to see the church grow and increase. It seems they almost resent new people coming into the church.

The end goal of ministry is to see the Body called the church increase

2. BENEFITING THE BODY INVOLVES EDIFYING THE BODY IN LOVE

The end goal of the ministry is to see the body edified in love.

The goal is to show love for each other.

What is love? Paul tells us what it is.

Love suffereth long. Why are we so impatient with people, is that love?
Love is Kind.. Why do we say such unkind things to people, is that love?

Love envieth not.

Vaunteth not itself.

Is not puffed up.

Love is not unseemly.

Seeketh not her own.

Is not easily provoked.

Thinketh no evil.

Rejoices not in iniquity.

Rejoiceth in the truth.

Beareth all things.

Believeth all things.

Hopeth all things.

Endureth all things.

Charity never fails.

What is the ministry but to exercise these virtues and practice these things in our lives with our dealings with one another.

Love will benefit others and this is what edification of the body is all about!

THAT WE MIGHT LOVE THE BRETHREN!

INVITATION

Discovering your ministry:

WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY?

1. **THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY INVOLVES SERVING.**
Are you truly willing to serve or are you looking to be served?
2. **THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY INVOLVES BEING UNDER SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY.**
Are you under the leaders God placed over you?
3. **THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY INVOLVES BEING PERFECTED AND PREPARED FOR MINISTRY.**

Are you doing your own thing or are you under spiritual authority?
4. **THE MINISTRY INVOLVES WORK. Work is sacrifice and hard.**
Are you sacrificing to be perfected in your ministry?
5. **The Ministry Involves Building Up The Church.**
6. **THE MINISTRY INVOLVES RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF GOD AND TRUTH.**

Are you rightly dividing the word?
Ministering according to the word of God?
7. **THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY INVOLVES EDIFYING THE BODY IN LOVE.**
Are you seeking the increase of the church to edify the church in love?

THIS IS WHAT IT IS TO BE A MISSIONARY AT HOME.
TO BUILD HIS CHURCH AT HOME.

If our church goes, so do our missionaries and their support.

My wife recently had an operation. Suddenly I had to do a lot of things she normally does and I hate to do. You better believe I was her nurse maid trying to get her up and running again. So too in the church I praise the Lord for all those who are part of this ministry and work to build this church.

Let us nurture each other in love.
Let us build each other up and not tear down.
Let's this is what the ministry is all about .

Let's get to work.
Let's do the work of the ministry.