

The Basics of Ministry

I. Introduction

- A. The Lord gives each believer a ministry. We may not all wear vestments (ministerial robes), but God has given each of us a spiritual ministry.
- B. The word “minister” appears 100 times in ninety-eight verses of the King James translation of the Bible. Most of the time the word is a verb (action) instead of a noun.
- C. To minister is to serve or to function for another.
- D. When the New Testament uses the noun form "minister," it refers to the person who is doing the ministry (the verb form "to minister").
- E. We need to understand the spiritual commitment and the function of ministry.

II. We Minister Unto the Lord

- A. The most important part of any ministry is to focus our ministry to the Lord.
- B. Everything we do must be done unto the Lord.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31** Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- C. God chose the tribe of Levi to minister unto Himself. For us today, we are all to minister unto Him.
 - Revelation 1:6** He made us to be a kingdom of priests who serve God his Father. To Jesus Christ be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.
- D. This same principle applies to the ministry of giving, preaching, praise, and worship.
- E. The first focus of any type of ministry must be unto God.
- F. Jesus used a parable to teach us that ministry done to others is also ministry unto Him.
 - Matthew 25:40** Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.'
- G. If we have not ministered unto God, how can we minister God to the people?

III. We Minister the Lord unto the Family

- A. Part of God’s nature is giving and blessing others. When we are born again that same nature is in us – we want to give and bless others.
- B. If you want to be in full time ministry, you must learn to manage your home with love. Then you can be trusted to manage the church.

IV. We Minister TO One Another

- A. After we learn to successfully minister in our own homes, (which are the smallest units in the Church), we are allowed to minister to one another in the larger family—the Church.
- B. A strong theme of the apostle Paul was teaching about ministry by believers to other believers.
- C. Usually not everyone in the church experiences spiritual victory at the same time.

- D. Singing, encouraging, and praying for one another is ministry: one to another.
 - E. We can minister to another person by laughing with them in the good times and weeping with them in the bad times.
 - F. It should be obvious that if we cannot learn to minister one to another in our local congregations, we will not be able to minister to people in other congregations.
- V. We Minister WITH One Another
- A. Our modern society is fascinated with movie stars. Even our churches love their super-saints.
 - B. God does give us strong leaders, but He has also given us a support team to hold up, strengthen, and expand the leader's ministries.
 - C. God has even equipped the believers for team, not solo, ministries.
 - D. Paul taught us that the Church, or the body of Christ, is like the human body. It has many different parts.
 - E. Pastoring should not be a solo act. Others should be ministering along with the pastors.
 - F. Everything in the church must be done, but one person alone can't do it all.
- VI. We Minister by God's Choice
- A. Every member of the Body of Christ has a ministry. Some ministries are large, and some ministries are small.
 - B. God has also chosen to place some believers in the church body with special giftings and callings who can minister on a full-time basis.
 - C. God has also placed people in the Church who can train and equip believers to become successful in their giftings and ministries.
 - D. God does not do all His work in the church with volunteers.
 - E. The Old Testament tells us about the schools of the prophets, where believers could learn how to minister. But there are not any stories about God using any of these graduates in divine service. They probably ministered in the churches, but never got their names written down in the history books.
 - F. I believe Bible school is a valuable way to prepare for ministry. But it is not the only way to prepare.
- VII. We Minister by God's Anointing
- A. When Moses complained to the Lord that the burden of leadership was too great for him, God instructed him to call seventy of the elders of Israel to the tabernacle.

Numbers 11:16-17 The Lord said to Moses, "Bring me seventy of Israel's older leaders, men that you know are leaders among the people. Bring them to the Meeting Tent, and have them stand there with you. ¹⁷ I will come down and speak with you there. I will take some of the Spirit that is in you, and I will give it to them. They will help you care for the people so that you will not have to care for them alone.
 - B. God has chosen to minister through people. But too many people are trying to minister without His presence.

- C. We minister through the gifts of the Spirit. We minister best when we minister through the Spirit who gave the gifts.
- D. When there is fire in the pulpit, there is warmth in the pew. (Excitement for the Lord starts with the leaders, and spreads to the congregation.)

VIII. We Minister by God's Direction

- A. God chose us, we are anointed by Christ, and we should be led by the Holy Spirit.
- B. God will use us in many different kinds of ministry depending on the circumstances.
- C. **Matthew 11:28-29** "Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Accept my teachings and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit, and you will find rest for your lives."
- D. We must learn to minister by God's direction: not only how to minister, but also where and when to minister.
- E. Every area of our lives needs to be under God's direction. Our lives must match the message we preach.