

YOU ARE ALL MINISTERS

Church... Who Are You? – Part 5

October 19, 2008

Class 301: Session One... Mate for Ministry

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MINISTRY

WHAT IS MINISTRY?

DEFINITION: (Greek "*diakonos*" = "to serve")

*"MINISTRY IS USING WHATEVER GOD HAS GIVEN ME
TO SERVE HIM AND THE NEEDS OF OTHERS"*

WE MINISTER IN 3 DIRECTIONS

- * To THE LORD—WORSHIP(Acts 13:2)
- * To OTHER BELIEVERS(Hebrews 6:10)
- * To UNBELIEVERS (Matthew 5:13)

WE MINISTER TO 3 AREAS OF NEED

- * To people's PHYSICAL needs.

"(God says) I was hungry and you fed me...thirsty and you gave me a drink...needed clothes and you clothed me...sick and you cared for me... in prison and you visited me...Whenever you have done this to the least person, you did it to me." Matthew 25:35-36,40

"If, as my representative, you give even a cup of cold water to a little child, you will surely be rewarded." Matthew 10:42b (TLB)

* To people's **EMOTIONAL** needs.

*"...Warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all."
1 Thessalonians 5:14 (TEV)*

* To people's **SPIRITUAL** needs.

*"...God **reconciled** us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**."
2 Corinthians 5:18*

*"We proclaim Christ, counseling and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ."
Colossians 1:18*

THE PURPOSE OF MINISTRY

*"There are **different kinds** of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. The Holy Spirit displays God's power through **each of us as a means of helping the entire church**. All of you together are the one Body of Christ and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it."
1 Corinthians 12:5, 12, 27*

GOD WANTS TO USE ME TO...

BUILD UP HIS BODY

THE PRIORITY OF MINISTRY

(Why should I be interested?)

1. I'VE BEEN **CREATED** FOR MINISTRY!

*"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
Ephesians 2:10*

2. I'VE BEEN **SAVED** FOR MINISTRY!

*"It is He who saves us and chose us for his holy work, not because we deserve it but because that was his plan long before the world began."
2 Timothy 1:9 (TLB)*

"Saved to Serve!"

3. I'VE BEEN **CALLED** INTO MINISTRY!

*"God, in his grace, **chose me** even before I was born, and **called me** to serve him."* Galatians 1:15 (TEV)

*"I urge you to live a life worthy of the **calling you have received.**"*
Ephesians 4:1

*"...You have **been chosen** by God himself -- you are priests of the King...you are God's very own--all this so that you may show to others how God **called you** out of darkness into his wonderful light! Once you were less than nothing; now you are God's own!"*
1 Peter 2:9-10 (TLB)

"...you will serve as holy priests..." 1 Peter 2:4 (TEV)

*I am not who I think I am
I am not who **you** think I am
but **I really am** who **God** says I am!*

A LIFE CHANGING TRUTH--MY PRIMARY IDENTITY:

I AM A MINISTER OF JESUS CHRIST!

4. I'VE BEEN **GIFTED** FOR MINISTRY!

*"God has given each of you some **special abilities**; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessing."*
1 Peter 4:10 (TLB)

5. I'VE BEEN **AUTHORIZED** FOR MINISTRY!

"(Jesus said) All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples..." Matthew 28:18-19

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors..." 2 Corinthians 5:20

6. I'M **COMMANDED** TO MINISTER!

"(Jesus said) Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve..." Matthew 20:28 (TLB)

*"(To Archippus, Paul said) Take heed to the ministry you've received from the Lord and **fulfill it.**"* Colossians 4:17 (KJV)

7. I'M TO BE **PREPARED** FOR MINISTRY!

"God gave...pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the Body of Christ may be built up..." Ephesians 4:11-12

8. THE BODY OF CHRIST **NEEDS** MY MINISTRY!

"All of you together are the one body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27 (TLB)

Ministry always functions in the context of the CHURCH FAMILY.

"When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said, 'The harvest is great but the workers are few. Ask the Lord to send out workers into his harvest field.' " Matthew 9:36-37

9. I'M **ACCOUNTABLE** FOR MY MINISTRY!

*"So then, each of us **will give an account** of himself to God."* Romans 14:12

The Parable of the Talents: Matthew 25:14-30

10. I WILL BE **REWARDED** FOR MY MINISTRY!

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men, since you know that **you will receive an inheritance** from the Lord as a **reward.**"* Colossians 3:23-24

"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your

Master's happiness!"

Matthew 25:23

**THE PROCEDURE: HOW TO DISCOVER MY MINISTRY
(ROMANS 12:1-8)**

STEP 1: DEDICATE my BODY

*"I urge you... to **offer yourselves** as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- which is your spiritual worship."* (vs. 1)

STEP 2: ELIMINATE competing DISTRACTIONS

*"**Do not conform** any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* (vs. 2)

STEP 3: EVALUATE my STRENGTHS

*"Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a **sane estimate** of your capabilities by the light of the faith God has given to you."* (vs. 3 Ph)

STEP 4: COOPERATE with OTHER BELIEVERS

*"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one Body, and **each member belongs to all the others.**"* (vs. 4-5)

Implications from Paul's Anatomy Lesson:

(See also 1 Corinthians 12:1-31)

- * Every member is a **minister** in Christ's Body.
- * Every member has a **different function**.
- * Every member's **ministry** is important.
- * Every member **belongs to all the others**.

"Each of us is a part of the one Body of Christ... The eye can never say to the hand, 'I don't need you.' The head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you.' And some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary!... So God put the body together in such a way

that extra honor and care are given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important." 1 Corinthians 12:13,21-22,24b (TLB)

STEP 5: ACTIVATE my GIFTS

"We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us prophecy... serving... teaching... encouraging... contributing... leadership... showing mercy..." Romans 12:6-8

HOW HAS GOD SHAPED ME FOR MINISTRY?

"Your hands formed me and shaped me..." Job 10:8 (TEV)

God has been molding and shaping you for ministry since you were born. In fact, God started uniquely shaping you even *before* you were born!

*"Thank you for making me so **wonderfully complex!** It is amazing to think about. Your **workmanship** is marvelous... You were there while I was being **formed**... You saw me **before I was born** and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe."* Psalm 139:14-16 (TLB)

Three Basic Principles

- 1. I was SHAPED for a purpose.**
- 2. I am UNIQUE!**
- 3. I am WONDERFULLY COMPLEX!**

"What right do you have, a human being, to cross-examine God? The pot has no right to say to the potter: why did you make me this shape? A potter can do what he likes with the clay!" Romans 9:20-21

In Ministry... Function Follows Form!

MINISTRY IS DETERMINED BY SEVERAL FACTORS

"There are different kinds of SPIRITUAL GIFTS but the same Spirit gives them. There are different WAYS OF SERVING, but the same Lord is served. There are different ABILITIES to perform service, but the same

God gives abilities to everyone for their service. The Spirit's presence is shown IN SOME WAY in each one, for the good of all."

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (TEV)

MY S.H.A.P.E. WILL DETERMINE MY MINISTRY

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

"...Each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that."

1 Corinthians 7:7b

WHAT AM I GIFTED TO DO?

HEART

"God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose..."

Revelation 17:17

"For it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for his own chosen purpose!"

Philippians 2:13 (NEB)

WHAT DO I LOVE TO DO?

ABILITIES

"There are different abilities to perform service. . ."

1 Corinthians 12:6

"I (God)... have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts..."

Exodus 31:3

"...our competence comes from God."

2 Corinthians 3:5b

WHAT NATURAL TALENTS AND SKILLS DO I HAVE?

PERSONALITY

"No one can really know what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like, except that person himself."

1 Corinthians 2:11 (TLB)

WHERE DOES MY PERSONALITY BEST SUIT ME TO SERVE?

E XPERIENCES

*** WHAT SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*"There has been enough time for you to be teachers--BUT you still need to be taught...(you are) without any **experience** in the matter of right and wrong."*
Hebrews 5:12-13

*** WHAT PAINFUL EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*"Sometimes it takes a **painful** experience to make us change our ways."*
Proverbs 20:30 (TEV)

"God helps us in our troubles, so we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God."
2 Corinthians 1:4 (TEV)

*** WHAT EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

"Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life-- guard it well!"
Proverbs 4:13 (TEV)

*** WHAT MINISTRY EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

"Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel ..."
2 Corinthians 9:13

Your ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when you are using your GIFTS and ABILITIES in the area of YOUR HEART'S DESIRE in a way that best expresses your PERSONALITY and EXPERIENCE!

**SUCCESS IS DOING
WHAT GOD MADE ME TO DO!**