

Sunday Service Sermons

04 July 2021

My Church and Ministry

Or

Finding My Ministry

Do you affirm the ministry of all believers?

That we all are called to ministry?

We call it the Priesthood of all Believers.

It comes from the great commission.

Matt 28.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”.

Based on this, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, what is your ministry?

What I am using for today has a title of: “Renew My Church and Ministry”.

Based on *Romans 12:1* and 2.

You might recall this is my special scripture for I chose this passage to exegete in Seminary.

This and *Matthew 7:21* formed a lot of my thinking about God.

The Matthew passage is: “Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!”

It amazed me that there will be people who can do these things but for the wrong reasons.

Unless directed by God what we do has no kingdom effect.

That is when I sat down and said, Ok Lord what do you want me to do with my life?

You and me Lord!

Have you found your place in the kingdom ministry?

You need to.

Only one life will soon be past, only what is done for God will last.

We have so many truths in cute sayings, we need to heed them.

Today we are considering our ministry and what it takes to get into it.

It takes dedication to God in appreciation for what he has done for us.

Romans 12:1 and it takes the resetting of who we are to accomplish His will for our lives. *Romans 12:2*

Lets review this passage.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing, and perfect will.”

And one more scripture to throw into it: “But to every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. . . . For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”.

Eph 4:7 and 12.

Oh, did you think that you were saved so you could feel superior to others?

We can be like the Hebrew people who were to be a blessing to the world instead of feeling favored and super blessed.

We were saved to minister to the world not feel special in it.

Yes we are redeemed, but for a purpose.

Not to be the elite but to be the servants of others.

Jesus came not to be served but to serve.

We are redeemed for the same purpose.

We call it the Gospel, the good news.

And we are called to be promoting the Good News.

We are called to ministry, we are called to give ourselves in service to God, and we are gifted for ministry.

Our job is to find our ministry and accomplish it for the Kingdom of God.

Do you think that my gifted ministry is standing before you and helping you find your way to God?

No it is not.

My gifted ministry is being with people in a moment of crises and bringing the love of God to the moment.

This has been stopped by the response to the disease that has come among us this past year.

Which has been most difficult for me.

You have been equipped for ministry, you need to find it and accomplish it in the name of Jesus for the glory of God and your neighbor's good.

God wants each person to present themselves as a living sacrifice, not conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of the mind, fully demonstrating God's will.

It is God's plan that all members of the body function according to the measure of faith God has imparted to them and minister as the grace of God directs them.

Our goal is to have a church where every member of the body answers the call to the ministry of believers.

All believers are members of the body of Christ but not all have the same function, but all have a ministry.

All believers have gifts given to them by grace, but not all have the same gift.

All believers are equal but unique in their gifting and responsibility in ministry.

Every believer is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

God gives gifts to believers so they can prepare other believers for ministry.

We are equipped for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.

God gives gifts to fulfill his purpose.

Find your gift and build up the body of Christ.

All believers have been created in Christ Jesus for good works.

And all believers are ministers of the Gospel.

Although our gifts and ministries may differ, no believer is exempt from serving God to build up the body of Christ.

Therefore, as Christians, let us know our gifts, our ministries; let us value our gifts as precious from the Lord; let us accept them with spiritual satisfaction; and let us use them to fulfill Christ's gracious calling.

Since Christians form a universal ministry. Several practical applications can be made.

Christ is the head of the church, ministering through his body.

Jesus now ministers through us.

If we confine ministry to the pastor or the church staff, we miss God's plan for the church.

Ministry in Jesus involves all believers.

Each believer is a servant, there are no spectators.

All are required on the playing field, no one is allowed to be a spectator.

All are players, God is the coach.

There will be a price to pay.

We are required to die to self and live in obedience to God's perfect plan.

Commitment calls for a living sacrifice.

If we are to go into battle, we need to be trained and equipped.

All believers are to be part of the crew; God has no passenger list, that is, no one should be merely along for the ride.

Pastor Ernest Estelle was dying.

At a luncheon he said, "A long time ago I realized that there was nothing so significant about Ernest Estelle standing alone, so I decided to identify myself with something that is greater and would last longer than Ernest Estelle. I gave myself to the Lord Jesus Christ and his church. As I look back, I made no mistake about that. All that is worthwhile to me now that I face death is wrapped up in that decision".

May this be true for each of us!