

SAVED TO SERVE

AUGUST 5, 2018

Ephesians 2:1-10

God desires a love and commitment to Him and often this is seen in our love and service to others. **Ministry is serving God by serving others.** This is done most effectively and primarily through the church. Ministry in the church is done best when we have a specific job that serves others and allows the church to better serve others. Ministry is done mostly by average people, some of who allow themselves to be used by God in wonderful ways.

A. **God's purpose for us**

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works,** which God hath before ordained **that we should walk in them.**

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.

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

- God has a plan for each one of His children. If His only goal was to simply take us to Heaven, He would do so the moment we trust Christ. The Bible makes it clear that **God has saved us to serve.**

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- He gave us the servant-example for all of us to **follow**

Philippians 2:5-7 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **v.6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **v.7** But made himself of no reputation, and **took upon him the form of a servant,** and was made in the likeness of men:

Matthew 20:26-28 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, **let him be your minister;** **v.27** And whosoever will be chief among you, **let him be your servant:** **v.28** **Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister,** and to give his life a ransom for many.

John 13:12-15 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? **v.13** Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so

I am. v.14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.
v.15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you

- He compares serving **people** with serving Him

Matthew 25:34-36 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: v.35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: v.36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Matthew 25:37-40 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

- Any **little** thing we do for others, we are doing it for Him!

B. God's **work** is for everyone

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

- He can always use more **labourers** to fill the ministry needs

Matthew 9:37-38 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; v.38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

1 Corinthians 16:17 I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied.

- Some of the church ministry needs:
 - ✓ Ushers
 - ✓ Choir
 - ✓ Parking attendant
 - ✓ Greeter
 - ✓ Nursery worker
- We can do a lot more if we are working **together**

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

1 Corinthians 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

Illustration:

“One of the largest, strongest horses in the world is the Belgian draft horse. Competitions are held to see which horse can pull the most and one Belgian can pull 8,000 pounds. The weird thing is if you put two Belgian horses in the harness who are strangers to each other, together they can pull 20,000 – 24,000 pounds. Two can pull not twice as much as one but three times as much as one. This example represents the power of synergy.”

- We can **help** and **encourage** one another

1 Corinthians 16:15-18 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,) **v.16** That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that **helpeth with us,** and **laboureth.** **v.17** I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied. **v.18** For they have refreshed my spirit and yours: therefore acknowledge ye them that are such.

C. Our God-given gifts should be used for Him

- Joining a **ministry** will let you find the right place to use your God-given gifts

Romans 12:5-8 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. **v.6** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether **prophecy,** let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; **v.7** Or **ministry,** let us wait on our ministering: or he that **teacheth,** on teaching; **v.8** Or he that **exhorteth,** on exhortation: he that **giveth,** let him do it with simplicity; he that **ruleth,** with diligence; he that sheweth **mercy,** with cheerfulness.

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

- Joining a ministry will help you be more **committed!**

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,)

- By joining a ministry, you are allowing God to use you in a **wonderful** way!

1 Corinthians 16:17-18 I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied. For they have refreshed my spirit and yours: therefore acknowledge ye them that are such.