



Connecting to Your Purpose FINDING YOUR MINISTRY

**January 20, 2008
Sermon Notes**

What the Bible Says About Ministry

1. What is ministry?

DEFINITION: (Greek “diakonos” = “to serve”)

- “Ministry is using whatever God has given me to serve Him and the needs of others.”

2. We minister in 3 directions:

• To the Lord

Acts 13:2 (New King James Version)

2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

• To believers

Hebrews 6:10 (New Living Translation)

10 For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.

• To nonbelievers

Matthew 5:16

16 Let your light so shine before men that they may see your moral excellence and your praiseworthy, noble, and good deeds and recognize and honor and praise and glorify your Father Who is in heaven.

3. The Goal of Our Ministry: To help others toward maturing

Ephesians 4:11-16 (New International Version) – God Wants to Use Me

11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined

and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

We Need You!

1 Corinthians 12:27

“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.**”

We Seek to Achieve the Goal of Our Ministry by Fulfilling These 5 Purposes of the Church.

1. CELEBRATE God’s Presence (Worship)

Matthew 4:10

10Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

John 4:23-24

23Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

2. To EDUCATE God’s People (Discipleship)

Hebrews 6:1

1Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,

2Peter 3:18

18But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

3. To CARE FOR God’s Family (Fellowship)

Galatians 6:2, 10

2Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

10Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

4. To COMMUNICATE God’s Word (Evangelism)

Ephesians 3:10

10His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

5. To DEMONSTRATE God’s Love (Ministry)

John 13:35

35By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

1 Corinthians 12:27

27Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

We Help People Achieve Maturity by Attending to Five Kinds of Needs.

1. To People's SPIRITUAL Needs

2 Corinthians 5:18

"...God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

Colossians 1:28,29

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

2. To People's PHYSICAL Needs

Matthew 25:35-36, 40

"(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 10:42

"If, as my representative, you give even a cup of cold water to a little child, you will surely be rewarded."

3. To People's EMOTIONAL Needs

1 Thessalonians 5:14

"...Warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all."

4. To People's INTELLECTUAL Needs

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of 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.

Philippians 2:5

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

5. To People's RELATIONAL Needs

2 Corinthians 1:12

Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace.