

Ministry Understanding

Understanding Our Doctrinal Ministry

1. “Christianity” today is confusion = we have a ministry failure
 - a. When it don’t make cents, look for the buck – someone is making a profit
 - b. Paul warned about deceivers and creepers - **Ti 1:9-11, 2 Tim 3:1-7, 4:3-4**
 - c. We need faithful men teaching - **2 Tim 2:2**
2. How can we fix it? - What is our ministry pattern? – it should come from the Bible, but ...
 - a. Ministries differ in the Bible
 - b. A successful ministry is firmly grounded in correct doctrine, increasing understanding
 - i. Deacons must hold the mystery - **1 Tim 3:8**
 - c. **Paul’s ministry is our pattern** in the church, the BOC - **1 Cor 4:16**
 - d. We minister the gospel of the grace of God, the BOC, the mystery of Christ.
 - i. Not priestly orders, vessels of tabernacle service, alters and offerings, a holy place, a sanctuary, nor a new covenant
 - e. We are ministering salvation, not sacraments
 - i. Paul was sent to preach the gospel - **1 Cor 1:17**
 - ii. Our ministry is not a cup, plate, cracker, confession, or water baptism
 - f. We are ministering sound doctrine, not an experience
 - i. Paul preached the gospel with plainness of speech, in weakness, fear, and trembling, through the infirmity of the flesh
 - ii. Speaking has the purpose of understanding - **1 Cor 14:19**
 - iii. And so does music - **Col 3:16**
 - iv. Our ministry isn’t stage lights, speakers, worship leaders, smoke and mirrors and manipulating people’s emotions
 - g. We are ministering knowledge, not numbers (Nickels, Noses, or Notoriety)
 - i. Paul worked and didn’t seem popular - **1 Cor 4:11-13**
 - ii. At the end of Paul’s ministry – “all they which are in Asia be turned.”
 - iii. Big numbers fail when people are not coming to a knowledge of the Bible, rightly divided, God’s will, or the clear gospel of grace
3. The Necessity of Doctrinal Ministry
 - a. One cannot minister without a proper understanding of God’s will (it is vanity otherwise)
 - i. Know the will of God, be wise! It is the Lord’s will that you minister - **Eph 5:17**
 1. Know and show someone - **1 Tim 2:4**
 - b. Walk worthy, do the work of the ministry, which is the edification of the church, the BOC.
 - c. Ministry is service, helping others comprehend the fellowship of the mystery of Christ
 - d. Ministry is doctrinal - **2 Tim 3:16-17**
 - i. Give attendance to doctrine - **1 Tim 4:6, 13, 16**
 - e. Ministry is of the truth, of the knowledge of God, of the gospel, of faith
 - i. It is communicative, not behavioral manipulation: doctrine before behavior, faith before tradition, understanding before experience.
 - f. BUT, you have to get the doctrine **right!**
4. How can you do ministry of the church? Step 1 - instill **right doctrine** in you, so you can instill it in others.
 - a. M.A.D. can help with understanding the Bible, your instructions, God’s will, etc.
 - b. Paul spoke and wrote - **Eph 3:2-4, 2 Tim 2:7**
 - c. Get truth right, teach no other doctrine (requires you be a steward of the mystery) - **1 Tim 1:3-4**
 - i. A Mid-Acts, Pauline, Dispensational, understanding of the KJB rightly divided
 - d. Increase your own - and other’s - understanding of God’s will - **Col 1:9**
 - e. Recognize and avoid failure
 - f. Don’t grow weary, fight the good fight, redeem the time, make full proof - **2 Tim 4:2-5**