

MISUNDERSTOOD MINISTRY

THE MINISTRY NOBODY SEES

"Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?"

~ 1 Corinthians 3:5

1. How Ministry is Seen

- a. Ministry is seen as a man behind a pulpit.
- b. Ministry is seen as a "man of God" sharing love, peace, wisdom in his presence.
- c. Ministry is seen as a show, performance, stage work, good (fair?) speeches
- d. Ministry is seen as a vocation where you receive support to do "God's work".
- e. Ministry is seen as getting a following (by any means) "to influence people for Jesus"
- f. Ministry is seen as anything in Eph 4:11, but not much more.
- g. This is all a misunderstanding of ministry.

2. Misunderstanding Pastors

- a. *What people think of pastors:* they are honored, respected, served, praised, center of attention, people must listen to you, no one thinks they're wrong, they steer the ship.
- b. *The reality:* the pulpit does not sanctify your opinions, open ears, put you in control.
- c. *What pastoral ministry requires:* liability, liberty, longsuffering, time, dealing with sin.
 - i. Offices, titles, positions are not what ministry is about – only useful for disputes.
 - ii. Timothy is a pastor: Trouble → 1:3-6, 2:9-15, 3:8-15, 4:13-14, 5:1,9-11,21, 6:5
 - iii. A minister is approved in suffering and separation - 2 Cor 6:3-10, 14-16
 - iv. Many people want to be the pastor, nobody wants to do the work required.

3. Ministry In View

- a. Minister ~def. To give, supply, serve, sacrifice, relieve; to attend to a responsibility.
- b. "Work of the ministry" is something all saints do – Rom 12:1, Eph 4:1, 12, 16, 2Cor 9:7
- c. Viewing ministry as pastors just as myopic as family is fathering, government is for a president, college is about professors.
- d. People see the teacher, but most ministry is unseen - 1 Cor 3:5, 2 Cor 4:18
- e. The supply/power(strength) to minister comes from God - 1 Cor 3:6, 2 Cor 4:7-9
- f. We are to shew ourselves approved "unto God" not men - 2 Tim 2:15, 2Cor 5:11
- g. You give account of yourself, not in comparison to someone else - Rom 14:8, 12

4. Ministry Nobody Sees

- a. Most people are not "pastors", so what else is there to do? A: The real ministry.
- b. What is done behind a pulpit doesn't always require one: preach, teach, exhort, instruct
- c. Many ministry opportunities are unpopular precisely because they get less recognition.
- d. Your vocation → receive nourishment from Christ, minister that to others Col 2:19
- e. Most of the "faithful ministers" Paul mentions nobody sees - Eph 6:21, Col 1:7
- f. Your challenge - Live a quiet and peaceful life in godliness and honest - 1 Tim 2:2
- g. Can you let the mind of Christ be in you? What a service to us all – Phi 2:1-5
- h. The most important unseen ministry you can do for the Lord: be faithful - 1 Cor 4:2