

MINISTRY AND THE CHURCH

SEMINAR 2023 / MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH / SESSION 2

"...the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." – Ephesians 4:16

1. What Is the Church

- a. MADPRD recognizes multiple churches in the Bible (Mat 16:18, Acts 7:38 & never a building)
- b. Spiritually, today's church is one: a new creature, the body of Christ, with Christ as the head & all members complete in Him – Eph 1:22-23 & 4:4, Col 1:18-24 & 3:15, Rom 12:4-5, 1Cor 10:17 & 12:13, Col 2:10 & 3:11, 1Cor 1:30, Gal 3:28 & 6:15
- c. Individually, each saved person is the church – 2Cor 5:17; 1Cor 12:12-14, 19-20, 27
- d. Practically, the church is people ministering together – 1Co 12:25-26, 14:19-23, 16:19; Phi 4:15

2. What Is Ministry

- a. **Salvation** (*What God Does for You*) and **Service** (*What You Do for God*) are different
 - i. Salvation is not received by your works – Titus 3:5, 2Tim 1:9, Eph 2:8-9
 - ii. But God has called the saved to DO something – Eph 2:10, Titus 3:8, 2Tim 3:17
 - iii. Work *can't* be done to receive grace (Rom 11:6); but work *must* be done to give grace
 - iv. Your service does not affect your salvation, but salvation affects your service – 2Cor 9:8
The unsaved cannot serve God; Believers serve as they were saved (by grace)
- b. There are many good works we could do, but chief on the list should be our ministry
- c. **Ministry** = (*Webster's def.*) The office, duties, or functions of a subordinate of any kind
 - i. *Office* = job title/description; *Duties* = responsibilities; *Functions* = work
- d. The believers' unique service to the Lord = the **work done for/because of/on behalf of God**

3. Ministry Is For Every Member (Or, Every Member is a Minister)

- a. Church ≠ a building; it is a body. Ministry ≠ an organization; it is the work of the body.
- b. There is no difference between ministers and members of Christ's body – Col 2:19
- c. Every member is called to do the same ministry with and to each other – Eph 4:4 & 4:12-16
- d. Why? The whole church is subject (subordinate, servant to) Christ – Eph 5:23-24, 2Cor 5:15
- e. Failure = when ministry is reserved for a special few (it makes vain God's grace) – 2Cor 6:1
- f. Success = when ministry is the communicated calling of every member – 1Cor 15:58
- g. Ministry is not a burden of some, but a blessing for all. It is not the work of the smartest, or talented, or professionals with certificates, but the work of those who have certified faith in the truth of Jesus Christ to perform his will now & forever – 1Cor 1:26, Ro 1:15, Eph 3:10-11
- h. The church is you. Ministry begins in and out of you. How? (See Sessions 3-8 of the Seminar!)