

SEMINAR: MINISTRY GROWTH

SPIRITUAL MINISTRY

1. Ministry Growth

- a. A session on growth is expected at a 'how to do ministry' seminar.
 - i. What's the secret to getting more people? More donations? More influence?
 - ii. Answer: give them what they want, make it easy/tie it to blessings, go big!
 - iii. No headline reads: 50 people went to church, 5 people faithful to study!
 - iv. We tend to measure in numbers, flesh exercise, good deeds, events, optics
- b. The goal is wrong: we are not trying to grow a corp-oreal body, but a spiritual one.
 - i. The unique ministry of the church is spiritual, not material, after flesh.
- c. When you were saved, what changed about you was spiritual. Rom 3:24, 5:1
 - i. *"the last Adam was made a quickening spirit"* - 1 Cor 15:45, Eph 2:1
 - ii. *"Now we have received... the spirit... that we might know..."* - 1 Cor 2:12
 - iii. *"that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge"* - Phi 1:9
 - iv. *"Speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things"* - Eph 4:15
- d. How do you measure truth, love, knowledge? Not with a doorpost, scale, calculator

2. Spiritual Growth

- a. Spiritual growth comes from the spiritual realities - Col 2:2-14
- b. Our increase/growth is of God by holding the Head (Christ) - Col 2:19
 - i. How to increase? Knowledge of his will, spiritual understanding - Col 1:9-11
- c. 90% of all religious activity is not spiritual activity - Col 2:16, 18, 20-22
 - i. Spiritual ministry would reduce ministry - Lord's supper, baptisms, calendar
- d. God would have us abound more in walking after his will - 1 Thess 4:1-5
 - i. Sanctification - life as a minister of God, not after the world.
 - ii. #1 reason people leave church (75%) - sports, life moves, family (busy)
 - iii. Church doesn't help w/career goals, or that of their children. (Workism)
 - iv. Career, family, education seen as more important to parents than godliness.
 - v. *"For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's"* - Phi 2:21
 - vi. You can be young and spiritual, you can be old, religious, carnal.
 - vii. A ministry gain a lot, do a lot, and fail at spiritual growth - 1 Tim 6:5-6
- e. Main task of parents/church is to raise people to know, love, serve God - ministry!

3. Spiritual Ministry vs Carnal Ministry

- a. Spiritual ministry requires a spiritual book - 2 Tim 3:16, 2 Pet 1:21
- b. Spiritual ministry is dispensational - 1 Cor 2:7-10
- c. Spiritual ministry concerns Christ and him crucified, you in him, a new identity.
- d. Spiritual ministry conforms us to the mind of Christ, not 'mental health' - 1 Cor 2:16
- e. Spiritual ministry is not merely feeding the poor - James 2:15-16, 1 Cor 13:3
 - i. Meeting physical needs (welfare) is not the unique ministry of church.
- f. Spiritual ministry teaches doctrine, not makes disciples - 2 Tim 3:10, Matt 28:19

- g. Spiritual ministry wars for minds, thoughts, truth, not flesh, blood, power. Eph 6:
- h. Spiritual ministry is driven by truth, not by emotions, passion, or will - 1 Cor 9:27
- i. Spiritual ministry knows no man after flesh, even Jesus after the flesh - 2 Cor 5:16
- j. Spiritual ministry ministers to sinners about sin - forgiveness, reconciliation, grace.
- k. Spiritual ministry changes our response to circumstances - Rom 5:1-3, Phi 4:11-13
- l. Spiritual ministry changes the purpose of hearts, not with laws - Rom 6:14, 17
- m. Spiritual ministry is understandable, not mystical or Col 1:9
- n. Spiritual ministry is not easy, but God gives you what you need to do it. 2 Cor 6:4-8
- o. Spiritual ministry is not done by spiritual giants, but by the Spirit dwelling in us.

4. The Spiritual Solution

- a. People need help. Ministry is trusting God for spiritual help. (People resist this.)
 - i. There is a lot of ministry being done after the flesh. What is the solution?
- b. Ministry growth happens within the believer, strength lies in spiritual understanding.
- c. Personal Bible study, prayer, ministry to the spirit will make godly men and women.
 - i. Time spent in this ministry cannot be outsourced - every man's responsibility
 - ii. *"Take heed to thyself, and unto the doctrine"* - 1 Tim 4:16
 - iii. Only the church can do this unique ministry of the spiritual things of God.
 - iv. Spiritual ministry can be done by yourself, or with 2, 10, or 100.