

MINISTRY EXHORTATION

SEMINAR 2023 | MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH | SESSION 5

“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.” – 1 Corinthians 4:1

1. Working Out of You

- a. 1) All members = ministers, 2) Ministry requires understanding, 3) Growth goals = spiritual
- b. God’s will is not fully performed until it is working both *in* and *out* of us – Phi 2:12-13
- c. How to get it out of people? Receiving exhortation stirs people to exhort others, & on & on...
- d. Exhortation occurs when people have grown in doctrine enough to desire its effect on others
- e. Yes, preaching & evangelism but also encouragement, example, accountability, charity (seeing the truth benefit other people)... - **ALL** can exhort
- f. Church service is where the church comes to serve, not where everyone comes to *be* served
- g. Grace ministries that never get to exhortation fail. Other ministries that exhort, but never understand also fail (differently). We need ministries with understanding & exhortation.

2. Church Ministry vs. Bible Study

- a. Study is not the same as church ministry work (Ep 4:12?)—foundational, but not the end goal
- b. Failed church ministry only produces students & teachers instead of stewards & ministers
- c. Students discover truth (2Tim 2:15); Stewards guard, hold, & affirm the truth (1Tim 3:15)
- d. If you only study and never stand, you will end up like those Paul warns about in 2Tim 3:5-7
- e. Church ministry exhorts, preaches, moves to action, goes beyond teaching to get people to **do** God’s service & what is right

3. Becoming Ministry Minded – Taking a Stand

- a. Being ministry minded is performing the job of a steward, not just a student → Titus 1:9
- b. Have the mind to do ministry; be persuaded, convicted, committed—Rom 14:5, 1Cor 16:15
- c. 1Cor 16:13 – “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong”
Quit def: To carry through; to do something to the end so that nothing remains; to perform completely
- d. How to be convicted to stand for truth? – **Learn** (study); **Grow** (pray); **Do** (work); **Prioritize** (integrity) – More effective and exponentially compounded when done with others!
- e. Successful church ministry produces ambassadors/servants of the Lord as opposed to servants of themselves – Gal 5:13, Rom 6:16
- f. The church should be taking a stand. When the church fails to take the stand, then there is no salt and ministries don’t last: every generation changes it or gets a new one instead of preserving what God has given to us – Col 4:6