

SEMINAR: MINISTRY FRUIT

RESULT OF SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY

1. Perfect Fruit

- a. Can you attain perfection in this life?
- b. A popular understanding of perfection is without flaw - sinless.
- c. Perfect in the Bible is not a flawless fruit, but a full-grown fruit - Luke 8:14
- d. Perfect ~def. Finished, complete; fully informed; completely skilled; entirely fulfilled.
 - i. "*praying ... we... might perfect that which is lacking in your faith*" - 1Th 3:10
- e. God made seed to grow & bear fruit, the result/perfection of a seed's growth is fruit
- f. God sanctified you a minister of Christ, planted in salvation through Christ Jesus
- g. What is the fruit, end, result of successful ministry? What is God trying to produce?

2. The Faithful Minister

- a. The perfected saint is a faithful minister of Christ - Eph 4:12
- b. "*Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect...*" - 2 Cor 13:11 → grow up.
- c. "*That the man of God may be perfect (for ministry)*" - 2 Tim 3:17
- d. Faithful men fulfil ministry - 1 Cor 4:1-2
 - i. "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" - 1 Cor 4:2
- e. Fulfilled (perfect) ministry creates faithful (perfect) men - 2 Tim 2:2

3. Qualities of a Faithful Minister

- a. What are the qualities of a good (faithful) minister? - 1 Tim 4:6, 1-5
- b. Every session of our seminar can be seen in Timothy's 'example' - 1 Tim 4:12
- c. The excellent way (1 Cor 12:31), what abides: faith, hope, charity
 - i. All three require the truth.
 - ii. Faith believes the truth. (Learning, understanding, right doctrine, integrity)
 - iii. Hope is truth working in you. (Working out, will of God, spiritual growth)
 - iv. Charity is seeing the truth benefit others (love by edify and warning)
 - 1. Charity is the bond of perfectness - Col 3:14
 - 2. This is what makes ministers faithful to create other faithful men.
- d. Paul is trying to make faithful ministers out of the Thess - 1 The 3:10-13
- e. Paul labors as a faithful minister to create faithful ministers - Col 1:25-28
- f. Epaphras (faithful minister) trying to create other faithful ministers - Col 1:3-7, 4:12

4. Rewards for Faithful Ministry

- a. Doing ministry successful reaps rewards - "first partaker of the fruits" - 2 Tim 2:6
- b. Doing ministry means you will increase, grow stronger - Acts 20:22-24, 32-35
- c. The things that last at the judgment are the things done in service - 1 Cor 3:12-14

5. You Will Minister - Life is Christ

- a. God made people for ministry. It is unnatural not to minister (serve/subject)
 - b. You are forced by creation to minister (serve him, and serve others)
 - i. How are you forced to seek out ministry?
 - 1. Marriage (serve another, love another)
 - 2. Family (sacrifice for another, love another, grow another)
 - 3. Business (subject, service, help others, profit)
 - 4. He puts people around you with needs, you with needs.
 - 5. He gives you spiritual desires.
 - 6. He makes you grow physically - to understand growth.
 - 7. You were made to believe, hope, love - help, stand, learn, exhort.
 - c. The only question is to whom will you be faithful?
 - i. 1) yourself, 2) devils, 3) True God of peace, love, joy
 - ii. You will corrupt easily - narcissism, hedonism, vanity, strife, steal, destroy
 - iii. You will either ministry truth of God, or errors, vanity, and lies.
 - d. Faithful ministry is only something the church (saved in Christ) can do.
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- Better every joint trying to supply something, than only some joints trying to supply everything
 - Better five words that increase understanding, than ten thousand sermons that leave men ignorant.
 - Better a few spiritual, than a carnal crowd.
 - Better a small group likeminded in truth, than a large group that agrees to disagree.
 - Better to preach the truth even if it hurts than to itch ears with lies.
 - Better to warn about an error sooner, than to clean up its mess later.
 - Better than a talented man is a faithful man.

You are the church; you are a minister.

You have been entrusted with ministry of Christ, now you must only take heed to the ministry
which you have received in the Lord,
you fulfill it

- Col 4:17