

## What In the World Should the Church be Doing?



## The Church's Mission

- A vertical mission
- An internal mission
- A horizontal mission.
- God
- The church Itself
- The world.

## The Governing Principles

- The duties of the church are equally shared by every member of the church.

## Clergy vs. Laity

- Distinctive clothing & hairstyles
- Different physical elevation
- Distinctive titles
- Change in the office of deacon
- Different standards of conduct



## A Two-tiered System

- Clergy
  - *kleros* = lot or special possession
  - Priests or pastors
- Laity
  - *laos* = people
  - lay people



## The Governing Principles

- The duties of the church are equally shared by every member of the church.
  - We are all part of the royal priesthood.
    - 1 Pet. 2:9 - you are ... a royal PRIESTHOOD.
    - Rev. 1:6 - He has made us *to be* ... priests to His God and Father.
  - We are all members of the flock.
  - We are all part of the holy temple that is the church.
  - We are all members of Christ's body.
  - We are all branches on the vine.
  - We are all members of the family of God.
  - We have all received a spiritual gift with which to minister.
    - Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:7, 11, 18; 1 Pet. 4:10

## The Governing Principles

- The duties of the church are equally shared by every member of the church.
- The duties of the church can be reduced to one key concept: serving.

## The Church's Duty: Service

- "The Servant of YHWH" (Is. 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-7; 52:13-53:12).
- Mark 10:45 – "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
- The ministry of the NT church is to be a ministry of service.
  - Called *servants* (Rom 1:1; Jam. 1:1; 1 Pet. 2:16; Jude 1; Rev. 1:1).
    - 1 Cor. 6:20 – you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.
  - Paul refers to the essence of his ministry as service:
    - 1 Cor. 9:19 – though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more.
    - 2 Cor. 4:5 – we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.
  - The same language is used of every Christian's service within the church.

## The Overarching Plan

- Christ Appoints the Leaders of the Church (4:11)
  - Apostles & Prophets
  - Evangelists
  - Pastor-teachers
- Leaders Equip the Members of the Church (4:12a)
  - "for the equipping of the saints"

## The Elders Primary Tools

- Teaching God's Word
  - Verbal instruction
  - An example of serving
    - **John 13:15** – "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.
    - **Phil. 3:17** – Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.
    - **2 Th. 3:9** – in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.
    - **1 Tim. 4:12** – show yourself an example of those who believe.
    - **Tit. 2:7** – in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds
    - **1 Pet. 5:3** – nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
- Prayer

## The Overarching Plan

- Christ Appoints the Leaders of the Church (4:11)
- Leaders Equip the Members of the Church (4:12a)
- Members Accomplish the Service of the Church (4:12b)
  - "for the work of service"

## "The Work of Service"

- From *deacon*
- A general word
- Whatever is done for God and in his name (cf. Heb. 1:14; 2 Tim. 4:11)
- Everyday service
  - Luke 10:40 & 17:8—preparing food
  - Luke 22:26f—serving food
  - Acts 6:2—serving food to widows

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- Leaders Equip the Members of the Church (4:12a)
- Members Accomplish the Service of the Church (4:12b)
- The Outcome Will Be the Growth of the Church (4:12c)
  - “to the building up of the body of Christ”

## The Overarching Plan

- Christ Appoints the Leaders.
- Leaders Equip the Members.
- Members Accomplish the Service.
- The Outcome Will Be Growth
  - “to the building up of the body of Christ”