

Five Smooth Stones

Ministry.

INTRODUCTION

The Core Values of Believer are those things which distinguish the believer and make the believer a "Life Giving Person" like Jesus Christ.

Evangelism
Discipleship
Fellowship
Ministry
Worship

The "big myth" about "ministry." "Pastor DOES the ministry and members RECEIVE the ministry" and it's over till next Sunday. This idea springs from the use of terms like "clergy and laity". Reverend so and so is our "minister", the result of this idea is that "we are not ministers".

The Biblical fact is that all believers are "ministers." We have a threefold ministry.

- To God - we will look at this one next week in the last message of the series on Worship.
- To The Church
- To The World.

This idea has minimized the impact of the gospel because it has reduced the number of people who can "minister" to those few who are called to the Five Fold Ministry, who we would call "church leadership."

NUMBER 1. Ministry Gifts. "Hand of God."

Eldership who are ordained.

1 PETER 5:1-5

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly,^[a] not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

⁵ Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of you be

submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

ACTS 14:23

So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

What are they, not the title we give to an older person, but a function of a mature believer.

EPHESIANS 4:8-11

Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”⁹ (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

- Apostle - Govern - impartation
- Prophets -Guide - revelation
- Evangelist -Gather - inspiration
- Pastor - Guard - affirmation
- Teacher - Grow - information

What do they do. VS.12

EPHESIANS 4:12

for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

- “perfect the saints” - completely furnish, equip. Train you for the job.
- “work of ministry” - attendance, service, Mark 10:45 Jesus was a minister.
- “edify the body of Christ” - architecture, a structure. “The Dwelling Place of God.”

EPHESIANS 2:19-22

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted

together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

NUMBER 2. Ministry of the Saints.

- A. To the Body of Christ. We are all involved in building the Body of Christ.
- B. Present our bodies to God, Renew our minds.

ROMANS 12:1-3

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. ³For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

- C. Discover, Develop and Deploy our gifts. Birthday cake example.

ROMANS 12:4-8

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, *being many*, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷or ministry, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- D. A fully functioning Body. Finding your place in the Body, what are you gifted to do and how do you use it to serve the Body of Christ. We use our gifts to grow own personal house, now let's use them to build God's House.

EPHESIANS 4:13-16

till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

NUMBER 3. Ministry to the World.

A. Compassion - meeting material needs.

LUKE 10:33-37

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' ³⁶ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" ³⁷ And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

B. Meeting spiritual needs.

MARK 16:15-17

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

C. Life givers give people God's Word and Spirit.

D. The anointing you is to be released to give life to others.

JOHN 7:37-38

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

E. The River brings Life.

EZEKIEL 47:9

And it shall be *that* every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

COMMUNITY GROUP POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKE AWAY FROM THE MESSAGE?
- HOW CAN YOU APPLY WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED TO YOUR LIFE?

Prayer Topic for Community Groups: Faith Kids Super Hero Night October 30th 6:30pm