

Sunday, September 24, 2023
THE HAND OF GOD: A STUDY OF THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY
PART 6: TEACHER

Today, is the final teaching in our study of the five-fold ministry. We have studied the purpose of the five-fold ministry and each part of that ministry. Let's jump into the final part: teacher.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)

In this passage, we are given the parts of the five-fold ministry. Last time, we discussed the possibility of pastor and teacher being the same gift. We looked at the church at Antioch and the leadership structure there:

Acts 13:1 (NKJV)

In the church at Antioch were prophets and teachers. Could the teachers there have also been pastors? Let's define teacher:

didáskalos (a masculine noun derived from /*didáskō*, "to teach") – a teacher, an instructor acknowledged for their mastery in their field of learning; in Scripture, a Bible teacher, competent in theology.

In the gospels, teacher is often translated as “master”. In the Hebrew view of education, the choice of who taught was very important because learning was secondary to character development. The goal of education was to have the students become like their teacher.

“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters.” /// Matthew 10:24-25 (NIV)

The knowledge that a student learned under their teacher was a byproduct of them becoming like their master. 1 Corinthians 12:28-31 reflects that teachers are a part of the church ministry:

1 Corinthians 12:28-31 (NKJV)

Again, it is interesting that “pastor” is not listed here yet we know that 1 Peter 5:1-4 (which we read last time) instructs the elders to fulfill the role of

pastor and have the ability to teach. The first century church seems to have caught hold of this ministry structure. An ancient writing called *Didache: The Lord's Teaching Through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations* written in the first century - author unknown - says this in the section regarding church ministry:

You must elect for yourselves bishops and deacons who are credit to the Lord, men who are gentle, generous, faithful, and well tried. For their ministry to you is identical with that of the prophets and teachers. You must not, therefore, despise them for along with the prophets and teachers they enjoy a place of honor among you.

Notice the use of the word “teacher” and the omission of the word “pastor”. Is it a big deal that we call church leaders “pastor” today? No. This describes their heart. Remember the Hebrew idea of instruction: a student is to become like his teacher. That is why the apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1:

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

As we end this study, let's refer back to a scripture we read at the beginning:

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. /// 1 Peter 5:6 (NIV)

The five-fold ministry is a gift to you from Jesus.

Today's Scriptures:

- Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)
- Acts 13:1 (NKJV)
- Matthew 10:24-25 (NIV)
- 1 Corinthians 12:28-31 (NKJV)
- 1 Corinthians 11:1
- 1 Peter 5:6 (NIV)