

IDENTIFYING YOUR MINISTRY

Christ keeps no servants to be idle: they have received their all from him, and have nothing they can call their own but sin. Our receiving from Christ is in order to our working for him. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Matthew Henry, 18th Century Presbyterian minister

(1 Pet 4:11 NIV) If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

We have seen how the Lord _____ His leaders for service. This involves experiences in business, sport, travel, tragedies, socialising and education. With all this preparation nearly every mature Christian will at some stage wonder *what is my ministry?* This may be because they are not good at one thing in particular. Which may also mean, though not necessarily, that they are good at *several* things. They may even enjoy doing several things. Their leadership may have asked them to do a particular type of ministry that they hadn't considered. And all this leads them to question *what is my ministry?* They may listen to a passionate evangelist and be convinced that evangelism is their ministry, until they hear a passionate teacher and then be convinced that teaching is their ministry. Often a study of the Biblical leaders doesn't help us because their calls were so sovereignly clear. We will examine what the Bible has to say about the various ministries within the church, and how to develop these particular types of ministries.

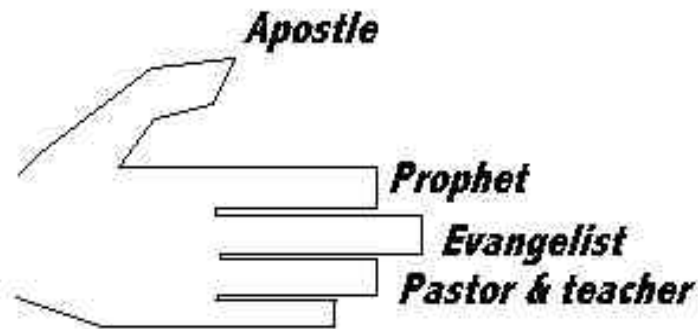
The Role of Ministry Within The Church

(Eph 4:12 NCV) Christ gave those gifts (ministries) to prepare God's holy people for the work of serving, to make the body of Christ stronger.

SPECIALISED MINISTRIES=

Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Eph. 4:11)

1. Given to prepare/equip/train the rest of the _____ into their respective ministries.
2. Given to strengthen the local/broader _____ .



These ministries are not purely academic. They are _____ who can *train*. They speak not just out of knowledge but also out of experience.

This of necessity demands time for these ministries to _____. When the Bible uses the word “elder”, it means _____ .

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR MINISTRY

1. An inner sense (*intuition*) ~
2. A critical ability ~
3. A natural tendency ~
4. A prophetic confirmation ~
5. A desire ~

Your ministry will be recognised by those in _____. As you place yourself into pastoral care you will be shepherded into fulfilment.

Developing Your Ministry

After identifying your ministry, you are responsible to _____ it. Jesus illustrated this by the parables of the talents (Mat. 25:14-30). Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift within him, and to develop his ministry so that his progress might be evident to all.

(1 Tim 4:14-15 NKJV) Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

1. Be teachable ~
2. Be submissive to authority ~
3. Be pro-active ~
4. Be focussed ~
5. Be pro-active ~
6. Be resilient ~
7. Be patient ~



Understanding Your Purpose

While God may gift and call people with similar gift or call, He will give His servants a clear purpose. God's leaders need to be purpose driven. Arriving at God's purpose takes us through three phases of ministry- *Hidden, Assumed and Arrived*.

Hidden Purpose

Assumed Purpose

Arrived Purpose

Amen.