

“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...” - 1 Cor 15:58

NORTHSIDE EXHORTER

A Teaching Bulletin to Inform & Edify God's Family at Northside

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August 19, 2018

“Understanding Ministry”

The word, “ministry,” is found 22 times in the ESV New Testament. This word “ministry” is dominantly & generically defined as “service; work; that which is done by a minister &/or servant.” Under this definition, anything which is done as a service, a work, or done by one who serves &/or ministers is classified & qualified as a “ministry.” However, like the word “fellowship,” God agrees with “said” definition, but limits & specifies its usage in Scripture. We must understand that ministry is not what we say it is or what we want it to be, for ministry is received from & of the Godhead (*Acts 20:24, 2 Corinthians 3:8, 2 Corinthians 4:1, & Colossians 4:17*). So, what is ministry?

Ministry Involves The Word Of God

In *Luke 3:23*, we read where Jesus began His ministry when He was about 30 years old. What did Jesus begin to do? He went out & began teaching the word of God in the synagogues (*Luke 4:14-15*). The apostles of Jesus understood ministry to be so. Listen to your Bible! In *Acts 6:4*, the Bible reads, “***But we will devote ourselves to prayer & to the ministry of the word.***” In *Romans 15:19*, the Bible reads, “***By the power of signs & wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God — so that from Jerusalem & all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ.***” This ministry is inclusive of teaching the gospel, righteousness, & reconciliation (*2 Corinthians 3:9 & 2 Corinthians 5:18*).

Ministry Involves Edification

In *Ephesians 4:12*, the Bible reads, “***To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.***” The work of ministry is the building up the body of Christ. For this reason, God has put in place evangelists, pastors, & teachers in His church (*Ephesians 4:11*). This ministry produces unity, maturity, spiritual strength, & completeness (*Ephesians 4:13*).

Ministry Involves Evangelism

Evangelism is the work of the evangelist that must be fulfilled. Listen to your Bible! In *2 Timothy 4:5*, the Bible reads, “***As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.***” This is the same ministry the apostles were commissioned to do in *Acts 1:17, Acts 1:25, & Galatians 2:8*. They received their “marching orders” in *Matthew 28:19-20*, in which to fulfill, this ministry requires that all Christians share in the same.

Ministry Involves Benevolence

The entire 9th chapter of *2 Corinthians* (specifically *2 Corinthians 9:1 & 2 Corinthians 9:12*) addresses benevolence to needy saints. It is the supplying of needs only to those who have the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, & the communion with the Holy Ghost (*2 Corinthians 13:14*).

Ministry Is The Work Of The Church

If we truly understand what God has revealed in His word regarding ministry, then we know that the “work of the church” is the same as Scriptural ministry. Therefore, if it is the work of the church i.e. evangelism, edification, & benevolence, then it is authorized ministry & we must do it. Nevertheless, if it is not the work of the church i.e. evangelism, edification, &/or benevolence, then it is unauthorized & we must not identify it as ministry.

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