

Ministry Principles



Calvary Chapel Vallejo

Introduction

The word "**minister**" really means "**servant**." Thus, a minister is a servant. This was modeled by our Lord Jesus, who took a towel, girded himself, and went around and washed the feet of His disciples. He then told the disciples, "Do you see what I have done to you? If I, being the Lord, have washed your feet, so ought you to wash one another's feet."

So, when we think of ministry, we should think of serving. The entire church, from the pastor on down, is here to minister, first to the Lord, and then to others, as ministers of God's grace.

The Heart of Ministry

The husband that labors must first be a partaker of the fruits. Therefore our first priority is to know our God. And a proper and godly ministry is one that is **rooted and grounded in God: enacting His plan, enabled by His power, encouraging and establishing His praise.**

When people really begin to understand God and what He has done for them , they will want to respond to Him; they will volunteer and want to give to God on their own.

But, to truly honor God and reflect Christ requires that we be transformed in our character, our commitment, and our conduct. It's not rituals, but relationships we want to develop. It's not just being zealous for God, but having a zeal according to knowledge. It's developing a Christ-centered life: a life that honors God, a life that magnifies God and His works, a life that follows God from the heart and that responds to His marvelous grace.

The Pattern of Ministry

Calvary Chapel's pattern of ministry is found in Ephesians 4:9-13. There we read that Jesus gave gifts unto men. He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers. He then declares why - for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ. The Lord has created the church for His own good pleasure, and thus, the church exists primarily for Him; it is His church. You cannot join it, but rather must be born into it by the Spirit of God, even the Holy Spirit.

The church, which is the body of Christ, is to manifest the life of Christ. It is to bring glory to God; to be God's instrument of ministry to the Lord. The church also exists for the edifying or the building up of the saints; to bring the saints into full maturity so that they might engage in the work of the ministry.

The Pattern of Ministry

To help each Christian grow in the Lord, we look to the pattern established in Acts 2:42, where the early church continued in the doctrine of the apostles, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.

To grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, requires the power of the Spirit of God working through the Word of God. It is that substance of God's Word and the working of the Spirit that brings the needed changes in people.

When the saints are growing and being perfected for the work of the ministry, they began to minister. They began to bring in their friends. Evangelism becomes a natural by-product of a strong and mature church. It is the natural function of healthy sheep to reproduce.

The Essentials of Ministry

If we are to hear our Lord say to us “well done my good and faithful servant,” we must be mindful of the essential elements of a ministry that is effective, and pleasing to God:

- Seeking to know the heart and mind of God through prayer, worship, Bible study, and fellowship, emphasizing relationship before service.
- Doing ministry as unto the Lord. Doing His will, His way (MT 25:40); so that our ministry is God-centered, not self-centered.
- Being motivated by a love for God and a love for others. Seeking to please God, not men, or yourself.
- Being led by the Holy Spirit: waiting for His plans and directions, submitted and committed to His agenda (not mine), His works (not mine), and His glory (not mine).