

## How to Minister

"Ministry" is from the Greek word diakoneo, meaning "to serve" or douleuo, meaning "to serve as a slave." In the New Testament, ministry is seen as service to God and to other people in His name. Jesus provided the pattern for Christian ministry—He came, not to receive service, but to give it (see Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45; John 13:1-17).

### What is Ministry?

It is **what's commanded for us to do and how to do it** - Matt 28:18-20 -18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of ALL NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to **obey** EVERYTHING I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (**What it means to believe** - James 2:21-23)

**Ministry is the guide for man in order to get out from the path to destruction** - Mark 16:15-16 - 15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

**Keep in mind, there are so many to minister to and very few ministers** - Luke 10:2-3 -2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves\*.

**Ministry is simply distributing God's Word in different ways, at all times** - 2 Tim 4:2 - **Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage** — with **great patience** and **careful instruction**.

WHAT	WHEN	WAYS	HOW
Preach the WORD	In season & out of Season	Correct, rebuke, & encourage	Great patience, & Careful instruction

### What we need to do in order to prepare to minister

**The purpose of the Church service is to prepare us to minister** - Eph 4:11-15 - 11 It was HE who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13 UNTIL WE ALL REACH UNITY IN THE FAITH AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD AND BECOME MATURE, ATTAINING TO THE WHOLE MEASURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST**. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 **Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ**.

#### Know exactly what we are to the world?

**Add flavor and preserve** - Matt 5:13 "**You are the salt of the earth**. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

**Light the path** - Matt 5:14-16-14 "**You are the light of the world**. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

**Recognize we all have gifts from God** - 1 Cor 12:4-11 -4 There are different kinds of GIFTS, but the same SPIRIT. 5 There are different kinds of SERVICE, but the same LORD. 6 There are different kinds of WORKING, but the same GOD works all of them in all men. 7 **Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good**. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, **just as he determines**.

**\*Gifts – from the Spirit, \*Service – the example is Christ, \*Workings (results) – done by God**

**Everyone in the Body's gifts work together so it's important how we use them** - Rom 12:5-8 -5 so in Christ we who are many form ONE BODY, and each member **BELONGS to all the others**. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

**Spiritual gifts are used to build the Body** - 1 Cor 14:5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, **so that the church may be edified**.

**We must invest in our ministry. The more we invest, the more effective it will be.** - 1 Cor 3:11-15 - 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 **his work will be shown for what it is**, because the Day will bring it to light. →

→ It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the **quality** of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

**We must understand, what we're in for and how to act** - Matt 10:16- I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore **BE** as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

**Shrewd** -phronimos (fron'-ee-mos) Wise, thoughtful, i.e. perceptive or discreet (implying a cautious character)

**The Word must be deep in us in order for us to have an effective ministry** - Col 3:16-17 -16 **LET** the word of Christ dwell in you **richly** as you teach and admonish one another **with all wisdom**, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, **do it all in** the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**We have to check ourselves and be prepared** - 2 Tim 2:23-26 -23 **Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments**, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in **the hope THAT GOD WILL grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth**, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

**We must know our audience -**

**The NON-Christian**

1 Cor 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he CANNOT UNDERSTAND THEM, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 **Cor 5:9-10** – I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people- 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.

**Christians who leave the Church vs. Christians who are sinners in the Church?**

**The ones that leave are lost sheep that we need to minister for them to return** - James 5:19-20 - 19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

**Those that accept sin while in the Church are a danger to those they come in contact with because they live a confused lifestyle** - 1 Cor 5:11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

**Check your ministry to make sure no one can discredit it** - 2 Cor 6:3-10-3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, **SO THAT OUR MINISTRY WILL NOT BE DISCREDITED**. 4 **Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way:** in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; 6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; 7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; 8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; 9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; 10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything

Circumstances (with great endurance)	Frame of Mind	The right tool	With praise or Criticism	What we must be, but may be viewed as
troubles	purity	truthful speech	through glory	Genuine - impostors
hardships	understanding	power of God	dishonor	Known - unknown
distresses	patience	weapons of righteousness	bad report	we live on - Dying
beatings	kindness		good report	not killed - Beaten
imprisonments	Holy Spirit			always rejoicing - Sorrowful
Riots (disorder)	sincere love			making many rich - Poor
hard work				possessing everything - having nothing
sleepless nights				
hunger				

**MOST IMPORTANTLY!!! Be guided by God ONLY** - Ps 25:14-15 - 14 The LORD confides in **THOSE WHO FEAR HIM**; he makes his covenant known to them. 15 My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.

**\*This means the determining factor in my ministry cannot come from: Emotions, Intelligence, culture, ignorance and anything else other than God.**

**Let's Minister!!** - \*Ministry is synonymous to a burning building that cannot be saved; therefore, the firemen's task is to **do his part** in convincing the people in the building to leave the building using the **ONLY** way out. (The building is the world, people in the building are unbelievers and the firemen are Christians and the way out is Christ).

**The biggest part of our ministry will be HOW WE LIVE, not what we say - 1 Peter 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may SEE your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.**

**There are rules that everyone's ministry must have** - 2 Cor 4:1-6 -4:1 Therefore, since **through God's mercy** we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 **Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth PLAINLY we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.** 3 **And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.** 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 **FOR WE DO NOT PREACH OURSELVES, BUT JESUS CHRIST AS LORD, AND OURSELVES AS YOUR SERVANTS FOR JESUS' SAKE.** 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

- **We do not give up**
- **We reject ungodly ways and never use deception**
- **We never add or take away from the Word**
- **We present the Word in the purest form**
- **We make sure we are never what affects man's conscience**
- **We are to always Preach Christ as Lord and us as His servants.**
- **We are the Light in this dark world.**

**If we find that the world as a whole agrees with us there is most likely something wrong** - 1 John 4:4-6-4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and WHOEVER KNOWS GOD LISTENS TO US; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood

**We are to minister to men, NOT please men** - Gal 1:10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

**\*If my audience dictates what I speak, my ministry is corrupt!**

**In order to represent God, we must be used by God** - 2 Cor 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

**Since we represent, and display God to the world, BE instruments he can use** - 1 Peter 4:11 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.

**Ministry is not an individual task, but the body working together with the main part being done by God** - 1 Cor 3:5-9 - 5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe-as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but GOD MADE IT GROW. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, BUT ONLY GOD, WHO MAKES THINGS GROW. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

**A very important point to remember when ministering in the world** - Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

**In a nutshell, ministry is us serving others for the purpose of winning others for Christ** - 1 Cor 9:19-23 - 19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

**\* We must not minister from our perspective only, but we must minister in others' point of view.**

## Things to watch out for in our ministry

**Watch out for those that speak in ignorance. (Correct them if you can)** - 1 Tim 1:6-7 - 6 Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. 7 They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

**The person that preaches the wrong Gospel is doomed for Hell** - Gal 1:9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

**Self-righteous Ministry** - 1 Cor 8:1-3 - Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2 The man who thinks he knows something **does not yet know AS HE OUGHT TO KNOW.** 3 But the man who loves God is known by God.

**The distortion of God's word** - 2 Peter 3:16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

**Be aware of those that separate the body** - Rom 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

**Recognize that false religions will try to look like they are working with us** - 2 Cor 11:14-15 - 14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

**Unequal partnerships** - 2 Cor 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

**Hollow philosophies** - Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

## Some ministries in detail

**Ministry by making the most of every opportunity** - Eph 5:15-17 -15 Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

\* **We are not to look for ministering moment, we are to minister all the time.**

**Ministry shown in living wise** - James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

\* **We display God in all situations**

**Ministry in subordinate responsibility** - Eph 6:5-8 - 5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

\* **We follow our earthly leaders being accountable to God.**

**Ministry in response to your enemies**

Rom 12:17-18 - 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Rom 12:20-21 - 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

\* **We make sure our response to our enemies is based on God's Love NOT on what is done to us.**

**Ministry by denying yourself** - Rom 14:19-21 - 19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. 21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.

\* **Will not hesitate to stop a freedom that is causing other to stumble**

**The ministry of helping other ministries** -2 Cor 9:12-13-12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. (Matt 25:31-46) (Matt 6:1-4)

\* **Our required serving of others is a major ministry.**

**Defending the less fortunate ministry** - Prov 31:8-9 - 8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

\* **We must have a voice for ALL who do not have a voice**

**Ministry in any situation** - 1 Cor 7:20-24 - 20 Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. 21 Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you — although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22 For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to.

\* **We are not to be defined by situations; we are to display God in ALL situations.**

**God wants all men to be saved, therefore; we do all we can to serve God.** - 1 Tim 2:3-5 - 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,



11. How are we suppose to preach?

12. What are Christians to the world?

13. What is the biggest part of our ministry.