

Ministry Skills I

(Foundational Principles)

Certain principles and ideas are foundational and important to all kinds of Christian ministry. Tonight we begin a series on concepts and practices for developing effective personal ministry.

What is the goal of Christian ministry?

- To bring the true God as much glory as possible with the time and resources entrusted to us.
- Colossians 1:28 *And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.*
- To **reach** as many people as possible with the Gospel of Christ, to **disciple** as many as possible and to **reproduce** our faith as often and as widely as possible, for the glory of the Lord.
- To **equip** each other and whomever God brings us for the *work of service to the building up* [edification] *of the body of Christ.*

Who is the Minister?

- Matthew 5:13,14; 1st Cor. 12:7, 22-30; 2nd Cor. 5:18-20; 1st Cor. 11:1; Esther 4:14c; Eph. 4:7,12



What are the reasons to minister?

- Because God has called ALL of us to spread the kingdom (Luke 7:22; Matt. 22:9; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)
- Christian ministry is rooted in our theology and in our theological skills. Every kind of Christian ministry (vocational, part-time, local church, outreach, etc.) is ultimately grounded in our understanding of theology and our ability to THINK theologically. Therefore our ministry skills and convictions will be affected (or should be) by good theological skills. (This series will alternate therefore with a series of seminars on "theological skills.")
- God intends to bless us through our obedience to His calling to minister. Ministry is good for us!
- Real, practical selfless ministry from our hands to others authenticates the Gospel message.

How is ministry learned?

- By becoming acquainted with the great variety of ministries and needs [see reverse side].
- From models in the Bible: Jesus Himself, Barnabas, Paul, Peter, Mary (& Martha), Priscilla & Aquila, etc.
- By close-hand observation and training by contemporary mentors in our lives
- By reading about famous servants of Christ in the past (biographies)
- By **doing**
 - ✓ Repeatedly, faithfully, deliberately, creatively, with accountability

What tools can I use?

- God intends that we will find **joy** through using the **gift** with which He has equipped us
 - ✓ A "spiritual gift" is a strong inclination and ability to serve the Body of Christ in a certain way
- Focus on the "service" gifts: **1** administration/leading/government, **1** encouragement, **2** evangelism, missions, **3** exhortation, **4** faith, **5** giving, **6** helps, **7** mercy, **8** pastor-teacher, **9** teaching
 - ✓ Discovery, trial and error, confirmation by the body
 - ✓ Faithful, consistent, long-term use
- Training resources (conferences, work-shops, videos, books)

Evangelism
 Kids (little ones)
 Kids (school age)
 Kids (teens, young) (teens, old)
 Kids (special needs)
 Young adults (college, young career)
 Singles
 Couples
 Seniors
 Divorced
 Prison (Bible studies, befriending inmates, outside support of families)
 Recovery
 Nursing home
 Missions committee
 Missionary contact, coordinating visits
 Short-term missions trips & support
 Teaching
 Hospitality
 Encouragement
 Giving and promotion of giving projects
 Counseling
 Music
 Drama
 Publicity, media outreach (TV, newspapers, internet)
 Maintenance (building, grounds)
 Creative expression (decorating, design, banners, etc.)
 Planning
 Stewardship
 Intercessory prayer
 Inter-church relations
 Communications
 One-to-one discipleship
 Web site maintenance
 Library/research resources
 Literature (evangelistic, encouragement, counseling)
 Social events
 Fun events
 Corporate church officer
 Mercy ministries to the sick, families with new babies, etc.
 Legal aid
 Family assistance, child care, babysitting
 Transportation and coordination
 Automotive maintenance
 Organization of special events
 M.C.ing church services
 Serving
 Collecting the offering
 Counting money
 Ushering, greeting
 Visitation
 Bereavement

Nursery, Children's Church,
 Sunday School, Awana, Youth
 Group, chaperoning trips,
 training, hosting

Ways to Minister

In DBC
 Inter-church, local
 Inter-church, regional
 Global

What are some basic character traits for effective and excellent ministry?

- Determination
- Commitment
- Availability
- Balance between resoluteness and flexibility
- Faithfulness/Dependability
- Willingness to personally give attention to developing the fruit of the Spirit while in the midst of doing ministry (love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience], gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control)
- Kindness
- Sacrifice
- Affection
- Good humor, light-hearted
- Enthusiasm
- Genuine forgiveness practiced/not score-keeping

Your Ministry Style: Striking Balance Between

Resolve and flexibility
Dogma and mystery
Law and grace
Church and family needs
Machismo & vulnerability
Drivenness and relaxation
Intensity and easy-goingness
Too serious and too goofy
Ability to say "No" and not
doing it too often!

Developing a Regular Ministry of Prayer for People

- Every Christian ministry is dependent on prayer and its success is directly proportional to the amount of prayer invested in it.
- Emphasize the *doing* of prayer for your ministry, not the publicizing of it

Personal Skills

- Being a good listener (James 1:19)
 - ✓ Don't over-talk, lecture, condescend, bully, intimidate, control or "win" all the time
 - ✓ Do ask questions!
 - ✓ Get control of vocabulary
 - ✓ Shun being negative or critical
- Have, and communicate hope about the future ("vital optimism")
- Maintain your personal devotions; Bible reading, prayer life, Scripture memory
- Keep appointments, commitments
- Always be reading something good which can contribute something to your overall ministry
- Ask God to help you become thick-skinned without becoming insensitive or numb
- Creatively, do little gestures of acknowledgement
 - ✓ Remember birthdays, anniversaries
 - ✓ Small but significant gifts, at unexpected times
 - ✓ Send the occasional e-mail note: express appreciation for something specific, ask prayer requests
 - ✓ "MAJOR" in publicly appreciating and affirming good things in people

Ministry Skills II (Foundational Principles, Part 2)

Does it matter to the great God of the Universe, whether I—one single person—organize my life in such a way as to “minister” to other people, or not? We are convinced that it DOES matter and that God intends every true follower of His Son to make personal ministry their greatest priority in life.

What IS Ministry?

This is important because there are lots of activities—even church activities--which can fill up people’s lives and not all are “ministry.” Going to a softball game in itself is not a ministry. Going to a softball game to cheer your own kid on *may* be a ministry; going to a softball game to cheer your non-Christian friend’s kid on as part of a your growing friendship with that person probably IS a ministry...

DEF’N: Let’s define ministry in this way:

Ministry is personal service of some kind given by you to another person, with the specific goal of Jesus being more glorified in that person’s life

Formula for Effective Ministry

C + R + T + P = M + J + E

Calling + Resources + Time + Patience = Ministry + Joy + Encouragement

I THESS. 2:1-16
ROMANS 1:9-13

The Varieties of Christian Ministries

Evangelism/Missions	Maintenance/serving/helping	Mercy
Pastor-teacher	Chaplaincies	Intercessory prayer support
Bible teaching	Visitation	Hospitality
Doctrinal teaching	Teen work	Children’s work
Serving & helping	Technical support	Finances
Dual-profession	Leading	Worship/Music/Drama
(engineer/missionary; architect/Board member; nurse/disciple-maker, etc., etc.)		

Resources

1. The Holy Spirit – despite all the best intentions of some non-Christians to be good people and to do good works, only the Christian has the Holy Spirit inside of him or her. It is our greatest resource for helping other people.

2. Spiritual Gifts --

- ✓ i.e. Administration/Leading/Government; encouragement; evangelism/missions; exhortation; faith; giving; helps; mercy; pastor-teacher; teaching
- ✓ There may be other gifts, not in the list above which exist
- ✓ Distinctions between spiritual gifts and talents:
 - A gift is a supernatural ability/passion/interest to minister to other Christians within the body of Christ.
 - A talent is a simple natural bent or inclination towards a particular skill
 - A person may be a talented trumpet player. If he plays trumpet in church he is not necessarily employing a spiritual gift. He is employing a talent. If, on the other hand, he wants to USE his talent in playing trumpet to *encourage* the saints by skillfully playing a Christian song in order to lift their spirits, he may be employing a gift of encouragement.

3. Your own mind/grit/background and experience

4. Mentors - a mentor is a person you look up to, learn from, respect and wish (to some extent) to emulate. It is a well-established fact that we learn quickly when we have the advantage of learning from a mentor.

Finding and Picking Ministry Mentors

Abraham Booth George Mueller Dwight L. Moody Charles Haddon Spurgeon
 Donald Grey Barnhouse S. Lewis Johnson Jack Arnold Howard Hendricks
 Billy Graham/Ruth Bell Graham/Franklin Graham/Ann Graham Lotz

Missionary Biographies

John Eliot Darlene Deibler Rose Jim & Elisabeth Eliot Nate Saint

5. Media

Books Tracts RBC Booklets Videos Tapes Conferences On-line ministries E-mail CDs

Qualities

Are you a FAT Christian?

- F – aithful Are you dependable, punctual, consistent?
 A – vailable Are you willing to serve in whatever capacity you are needed?
 T – eachable Are you a learner with a humble, teachable spirit?

Listening

Speaking the truth in love

Long-term view