



Global Good

News Literature

Basic Christianity



Part III

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“All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17



“The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.” Psalm 119:130

***Note: All Scriptures in this study are either from NIV or NKJV**

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Lesson Twelve **Ministry – Service**

I. God has two kinds of calls to man.

The first one is the call to salvation. The second is a call to service or ministry.

The following verse includes both calls.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

1. A call to salvation

- a. **Come to me** - He is calling mankind to himself because he is the Savior.
- b. **All you who are weary and burdened** - burdened by sin
- c. **I will give you rest** – Rest from the power and effects of sin.

2. A call to Service/Ministry.

- a. **Take my yoke upon you** – This is a call to serve Him (His yoke – nobody else’s)
- b. **Learn from me** – We have to learn from him before we can serve him. He teaches us on how to take his yoke upon ourselves.
- c. **For I am gentle and humble in heart** - The first thing we learn from him is His gentleness and humility.
- d. **And you will find rest for your souls** – After finding rest from the power of sin, we are invited to find rest for our soul in service. No service, no rest for our soul.

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When Jesus Christ called the twelve disciples the primary reason was ‘that they might be with him’. What prepares us for service or ministry is ‘to be with Him’.

“Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve that **they might be with him** and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons.” Mark 3:13-15

When two of these apostles, Peter and John, were arrested and stood before the High Priest and the scribes, they were amazed by how Peter and John responded and took note, ‘that they were with Jesus’.

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished **and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.**” Acts 4:13

What uniquely qualifies any one for Service or Ministry is, ‘to be with Jesus’ and ‘learn from Him’. Then and only then, we would be able to take His yoke upon us.

This truth is not only for New Testament Christians. When God called his people from their bondage in Egypt, likewise, it was for dual purpose.

1. To free them from slavery in Egypt – slavery is analogous to bondage to sin, and their freedom from slavery points to freedom from sin (Salvation).
2. So that they may serve Him. The whole people were called to Serve God.

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, Go to Pharaoh and say to him, thus says the LORD: Let My people go, **that they may serve Me.**” Exodus 8:1 (NKJV)

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II. The Foundation for Service

The foundation of all service is, ‘consecrating oneself unto the Lord.’

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Rom 12:1 (KJV)

“Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the LORD today?”
1 Chr. 29:5 (NIV)

III. The Goal of Service

There are many kinds of service/ministry in the Church, however, there are two main goals for every service or ministry.

1. Reconciliation with God

The New Testament ministry is, reconciling the first Adam (man) to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 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.” 2 Cor. 5:18-20

The ministry of reconciliation results in people being reconciled with God, and is accomplished through the Word of God (the Gospel) and intercessory prayer.

2. Discipleship – Helping people Grow/Mature in Christ

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Those who have been reconciled with God need to be established in Christ by sending their roots down, growing up and bearing fruit. The ultimate goal is for a disciple to be Christ-like.

“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.” Eph. 4:13

The Apostle Paul tells us what the goal of his ministry was.

“He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.” Col. 1:28

IV. In what manner do we receive the call to Service/Ministry?

Just as we received the call to salvation by grace, we also receive the call to service or ministry by grace. No one can serve God by his own strength or his own righteousness.

Even in the Old Testament God said:

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue *which* rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and **their righteousness is from me**,” Says the LORD.” Isaiah 54:17

The Apostle Paul also tells us it is through His mercy.

“Therefore, since **through God’s mercy we have this ministry**, we do not lose heart.” 2 Cor. 4:1

“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that **he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.**” 1 Tim. 1:12

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This is one of the most important truths about ministry that we should know. God does not give us ministry based on our qualification but solely because of His mercy and grace. He gives us the strength and the grace to serve him and considers us trustworthy.

“Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but **our competence comes from God.**” 2 Cor. 3:5

V. The Source of Service/Ministry

The source of all service or ministry is Jesus Christ himself. Ministry can come through people or through the Church, but the ultimate source of true service is Christ.

The Apostle Paul tells us that he received his ministry from the Lord.

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to **finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me**—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.” Acts 20:24

No one who understands this truth can complain that he did not get any opportunity to serve, because **true call to serve comes from the Lord not from any man.** Not only is all true call to serve from the Lord; also, every single step of serving is through Him.

He said, “**I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.**” John 15:5

On the other side, **with His help we can do everything.**

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Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Phil. 4:13 (NKJV)

VI. How Service/Ministry works

The main thing we need to know about how ministry works is that it is not something we do *for* the Lord but *with* the Lord. Ministry is doing God’s work with Him. Basically, it is finding out what he is doing on earth and joining him by doing our part, whatever he tells us to do.

“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.” 1 Cor. 3:9

So, how are we to serve?

1. First, ‘we have to be born again’.

You might say ‘why state the obvious?’ Unfortunately, there are many who are engaged in ministry without knowing if they are really born again. Maybe, they grew up in church and were caught up in some kind of service in the church. They never asked themselves if they have consciously responded to God’s first call of salvation by grace through Jesus Christ.

2. By finding out what our gift is.

We can only serve according to our gifting. If we don’t know what our gifts are we might get into areas that we don’t belong. To find our place in the house of God, we have to find the gift that God has already placed in our heart. Our pastors or elders in the church can help us discern what our gift is. It is usually the thing we have a desire or tendency to do. **God puts the desire along with the gift.** Read 1Cor. Chapters 12 through 14. We

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have to be aware that our gifts are deposited in us as a seed that need to be nurtured and grow. Our dedication and faithfulness determine how fruitful we become in using our gifts for the Glory of God.

3. Through Prayer and the Word of God.

If any ministry is not enveloped with prayer and the Word of God, it is like building with a material that does not pass through the fire. (1 Cor. 3:12-15). The Apostles were steadfast in Prayer and the Word of God. They said, “We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” Acts 6:4 (NKJV). Ministry requires preparation in our spirit and mind. Prayer prepares our spirit; the Word prepares our spirit and mind.

4. By relying on the Holy Spirit

Without the help of the Holy Spirit no one can give a fruitful ministry that pleases God. Only the Holy Spirit knows the perfect will of God and can lead us into fulfilling it.

“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the LORD Almighty.” Zachariah. 4:6

In the Old Testament, ministry was according to what the law asks, but in the New Testament it is a ministry of the Spirit.

“He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” 2 Cor. 3:6

5. With Honor

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The Apostle Paul compares the ministry of the Old Testament, which had some level of honor, with the Ministry of the New Testament, which he refers as much more glorious.

“But if the ministry of death, written *and* engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away, ⁸how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? ⁹For if the ministry of condemnation *had* glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. ¹⁰For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. ¹¹For if what is passing away *was* glorious, what remains *is* much more glorious.” 2 Cor. 3:7-11

The point is, if the Ministry of the New Testament has great honor, it should be done with great honor and the fear of the Lord.

6. By getting rid of our shameful ways

Just because we are born again does not mean we don't have shameful things we should get rid of. We cannot serve God with sin in our heart and on our hands.

“Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. 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 everyone's conscience in the sight of God.” 2 Cor. 4:1-2

What Paul calls 'secret' in the above verse, is only secret to man not to God. So, the sooner we get rid of what is shameful the better off we will be. What is the use, if we get praise from men

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but our work is shameful before God? Just because God is patient with us does not mean he condones what we do.

“When you did these things and I kept silent, you thought I was exactly like you. But I now arraign you and set my accusations before you.” Psalms 50:21

7. By not compromising

“For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.” 2 Cor. 2:17

8. By not serving our own interest.

Our only motive in service should be to honor God. Anyone using his ministry to promote himself is threading on a dangerous ground. We should not preach ourselves but only the crucified Christ. There should not be any self-serving motive in our heart when we minister.

9. For the benefit of others

Ministry is for the Glory of God and the benefit of others.

“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” Phil. 2:4

10. By enduring hardship

When we are serving the Lord there is always opposition from the enemy. All kinds of tribulations, tests and trials might come our way. We have to be able to endure these things if we are going to give a ministry that is pleasing to the Lord.

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The Apostle Paul encourages Timothy by saying:

“Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. ⁶The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.” 2 Tim. 2:3-5

- **As a soldier** – pleasing our commanding officer (Jesus Christ)
- **As an athlete** – by competing according to the rules (the Word of God)
- **As a farmer** – working hard to do God’s will

11. With clear conscience

“Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.” Mat. 5:8

“My eyes will be on the faithful in the land,
that they may dwell with me;
**the one whose walk is blameless
will minister to me.**” Psalms 101:6 (NIV)

12. With the Unity of the Spirit (as a Body of Christ)

We cannot minister as an island. Ministry is with the body of Christ and to the body of Christ. We serve the body of Christ and we are served by the body of Christ.

“In whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” Eph 2:22

Even though working with others is not easy (just as it is not easy for others to work with us), God has designed it so that we

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should minister with each other in Love. Jesus said ‘how can you say you love God, whom you cannot see, when you don’t love your brother that you can see?’

13. With Humility

There cannot be true ministry without humility. Jesus said “I am meek and lowly in heart”. After Jesus washed the disciple’s feet, he said: “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” John 13:13

When there is no humility in our service:

1. We will focus on ‘Me, Mine and I’. ‘What will I get out of it?’ will be the crucial question, instead of ‘how can I glorify God in this?’ and ‘How would others benefit from this?’
2. We will focus on ‘our group or clique’. What we do becomes divisive in the body of Christ instead of keeping the Unity of the Spirit.
3. We ourselves would not be edified, nor will others be edified.

“All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” 1 Peter 5:5

VII. Obstacles to Ministry

Some of the main stumbling blocks for ministry are:

1. Not knowing the main purpose of Ministry - which is to honor God.
2. Not knowing what ministry is – which is ‘Doing God’s will God’s way’.

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3. **Not knowing how to do ministry** – mentioned above in section VI.

If we have problem with any of these three areas, ministry would be burdensome to ourselves and others, and will not be pleasing to God.

May God help us to clothe ourselves with humility and give service that honors God, edifies ourselves and others.

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Lesson 12 – Ministry - Quiz

(Please give your answers on a separate piece of paper)

Student ID #: _____
Student Name: _____
Address: _____

1. What are the two kinds of calls God has for mankind?
2. What are the two main goals of service? Describe each one.
3. What is the foundation of all service? What is its source?
4. How should we serve? Describe three things.
5. According to Phil 2:1-11, what is the role of humility in our service?
6. What are some of the characteristics of serving without humility?
7. If you are engaged in serving, how do you find your service compared to what you learned in this lesson?
 - a. If you have not started serving yet, what are your gifts and how do you plan to use them for the Glory of God?