

DISCOVERING YOUR MINISTRY

CLASS 301

I. THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS:

“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

II. THE FOCUS OF THIS CLASS:

What God made you to BE determines what He intends for you to DO.

God is consistent in His plan for each of our lives. He would not give us inborn talents and temperaments, spiritual gifts, and all sorts of life experiences and then not use them! The focus of this class is to help you discover the ministry you’ve been created for.

The two results of discovering the ministry you’ve been created for are:

1. Fulfillment
2. Fruitfulness

III. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MINISTRY?

A. Ministry is using whatever God has given you to serve Him and the needs of others.

B. We minister in three directions:

1. To the Lord. (Acts 13:2-3)
2. To believers. (Hebrews 6:10)
3. To non-believers. (Matthew 5:13)

C. We minister to three areas of needs:

1. To people's physical needs. (Matthew 25:35-40)
2. To people's emotional needs. (1 Thessalonians 5:14)
3. To people's spiritual needs. (2 Corinthians 5:18; Colossians 1:28-29)

IV. THE PURPOSE OF MINISTRY

“And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:5-7)

God wants to use you for the common good of the church.

V. THE PRIORITY OF MINISTRY

A life changing truth is that your primary identity is you are a minister of Jesus Christ!

1. You've been created for ministry. (Ephesians 2:10)
2. You've been saved for ministry. (2 Timothy 1:9)
3. You've been called into ministry. (Ephesians 4:1)
4. You've been gifted for ministry. (1 Peter 4:10)
5. You've been authorized for ministry. (Matthew 28:18-19)
6. You've been commanded to minister. (Matthew 20:28)
7. You've been equipped for ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
8. The body of Christ needs your ministry. (1 Corinthians 12:27)

(Ministry always functions in the context of the church family. (Matthew 9:36-37))

9. You are accountable for your ministry. (Romans 14:12; Matthew 25:14-30)
10. You will be rewarded for your ministry. (Colossians 3:23-24; Matthew 25:23)

VI. HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR MINISTRY

1. Dedicate yourself. (Romans 12:1)
2. Eliminate competing distractions. (Romans 12:2)
3. Evaluate your strengths. (Romans 12:3)
4. Cooperate with other believers. (Romans 12:4-5)
5. Use your gifts. (Romans 12:6-8)

God uses an anatomy lesson in 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 to teach us the following important truths:

1. Every member is a minister in Christ's body.
2. Every member has a different function.
3. Every member's ministry is important.
4. Every member belongs to the other members.

VII. HOW HAS GOD SHAPED YOU FOR MINISTRY?

A. God has been molding and shaping you for ministry since you were born. In fact, God started uniquely shaping you even before you were born. (Psalm 139:14-16)

1. You were shaped for a purpose.
2. You are unique.
3. You are wonderfully made.

B. Your shape will determine your ministry.

1. Spiritual Gifts (What are you gifted to do?)
 - a. Only believers have spiritual gifts. (1 Corinthians 2:14)
 - b. Every Christian has at least one gift. (1 Corinthians 7:7)
 - c. No one receives all the gifts. (1 Corinthians 12:27-30)
 - d. No single gift is given to everyone. (1 Corinthians 12:29-30)
 - e. You cannot earn or work for a spiritual gift. (Ephesians 4:7)
 - f. The Holy Spirit decides what gifts you get. (1 Corinthians 12:11)
 - g. The gifts you are given are permanent. (Romans 11:29)
 - h. You are to develop the gifts God gives you. (1 Timothy 4:14)
 - i. It is a sin to waste the gifts God gives you. (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)
 - j. Using your gifts glorifies God and grows you. (John 15:8)
2. Heart (What do you love to do?)
3. Abilities (What natural talents and skills do you have?)
4. Personality (Where does your personality best suit you to serve?)

5. Experiences (What experiences have you had?)
- a. What spiritual experiences have you had?
 - b. What painful experiences have you had?
 - c. What educational experiences have you had?

Your ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when you are using your GIFTS and ABILITIES in the area of your HEART'S DESIRE in a way that best expresses your PERSONALITY and EXPERIENCES.

MY MINISTRY COMMITMENT

Having committed myself to membership and the disciplines essential for spiritual growth, with God's help I will strive to:

1. Discover my unique shape for ministry.
2. Discover my spiritual gift(s).
3. Discover what I love to do.
4. Discover my natural talents and skills.
5. Discover where my personality best suits me to serve.
6. Discover how my experiences have shaped me to serve.
7. Serve in the area that best expresses what God made me to be.
8. Demonstrate a servant's heart by serving in secondary ministries as the Body needs me.
9. Cooperate with other ministries and place the greater good of the whole Body over the needs of my ministry.

Print Name

Date:_____

Signature

Acts 13:2-3

2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." **3** Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Hebrews 6:10

10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

Matthew 5:13

13 "You are the salt of the earth;

Matthew 25:35-40

35 For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; **36** naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' **37** Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink? **38** And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? **39** When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' **40** The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.'

1 Thessalonians 5:14

14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

2 Corinthians 5:18

18 Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

Colossians 1:28-29

28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. **29** For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

2 Timothy 1:9

9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Ephesians 4:1

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

1 Peter 4:10

10 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Matthew 28:18-19

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 20:28

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Ephesians 4:11-12

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

1 Corinthians 12:27

27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

Matthew 9:36-37

36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Romans 14:12

12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

Colossians 3:23-24

23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Romans 12:1-8

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. **4** For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, **5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6** Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; **7** if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; **8** or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Psalms 139:14-16

14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Wonderful are Your works,

And my soul knows it very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from You,

When I was made in secret,

And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;

16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;

And in Your book were all written

The days that were ordained *for me*,

When as yet there was not one of them.

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

1 Corinthians 7:7

However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

1 Corinthians 12:27-30

27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. **28** And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues. **29** All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of* miracles, are they? **30** All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

Ephesians 4:7

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

1 Corinthians 12:11

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

Romans 11:29

29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

1 Timothy 4:14

14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. **2** In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

John 15:8

8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.