

## 62 Ministry

When one ministers it must be:

In the Name of The Father (The Will of The Father)

for the purposes of The Father

For the postposes of The Kingdom

Under the Authority of Jesus

Under the empowerment and guidance of The Holy Spirit

Out of Love for them and the person being ministered to

Not for gain or reward.

Anything else is of self.

When we minister, we serve Jesus our King out of love for Him and then it flows outward to others in the way He tells us to do it as we express His Love and the Love of The Father, under the guidance and direction of The Holy Spirit, to others.

Ministry is an act of Love to God, as we serve him to help others know Him and His Love. Ministry is not done for expectation of reward as we minister like God ministers to us in all things, out of His Love for us without any expectation of reward. Ministry is an act of grace.

It is an act of Jesus (our stepbrother) and The Father which they graciously allow us to do.

All ministry is to Jesus as He is our King and then as he directs us, we minister to others. This means we should only minister when He tells us too. To do so any other time may be wrong as we may not meant to be ministering then or we may not have the knowledge we need to minister then. To minister out of God's timing can leader to the rejection of what God wants that person to know as they react to you. God can still use it at times but it does not serve Him or the person as it should and may even be sin at times where it is done for the sake of ministry (and thus for self-esteem) and not out of love for Jesus or that person.

Church ministers are servants and not ministers in the biblical sense as they are paid for their work.

People in churches also call themselves 'ministers' but if they get paid to do what they are doing they are really servants and not ministers. This perhaps gives a little more understanding to Matthew 20:26,27:

*But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief*

*among you, let him be your servant:*

If you would be great in the kingdom of God and minister then serve others out of Love and not for reward. If you would be a paid worker in a church (these are usually in charge of areas of the church e.g., worship, prayer, pastoral duties) then remember you are a servant. You will not be as great in The Kingdom as those that serve out of that love and not for reward.

Serving God should be a result of thankfulness and love for what He has done for us apart from the fact there are rewards for being faithful servants.

### **How do we minister to God?**

All ministry is to Jesus, our King and has its outworking directed towards others in the Love of God manifested in us. Any ministry not done in Love is not of God but of self.

Ministry is actually a form of worship of Jesus through obeying Jesus as you are saying He is worthy of being obeyed. Ministry and obedience to God are also out of love for what He has done for you as well as love for the person being ministered to.

Ministry is done to help a person become what God desires them to be and not what you think they should be.

Ministry, that is done from duty or because of the position one is in, may not true ministry if it is based on what is required by people or denominational rules and not what God may want.

This is why true ministry is guided by The Holy Spirit and not the arrangements or plans of men, church bodies or denominational requirements unless, of course, they are guided by The Holy Spirit in doing it. Those guided by the Holy Spirit are called the sons of God as they do the Will of their Father.

This presents a problem for most churches that no longer consider The Holy Spirit as personally guiding or even working in the church today. So how can they be led by someone they are not listening for or looking to guidance for. This would seem to disqualify them from able to be 'sons of God.'

Another problem is to assume what God is going to do something because that is the way He has done it in the past. God is original so you must always ask for guidance just in case He has changed the way He wants something done.

### **Ministry and Self-esteem**

Many people ministering do not realise they get their self-esteem from ministry and as it becomes like an idol, they must protect it or else feel inadequate. Hence the control many exercise to keep their 'ministry position' in a church. This has caused many problems in the churches and anyone ministering must examine their motives for doing

so (God' Love) to ensure there is no other motive such as self-esteem. If there is ministry is for purposes of self-esteem it will then be primarily to meet their own needs and not to serve Jesus or the needs of the person being 'ministered too.

Ministry is an outworking of your love towards God. True self-esteem is a result of this type of ministry. A result of seeing God's Heart and Love for you and wanting others to see this also.

This love for God and the desire for people to see Him as he really is, so they too can relate to Him in Love and Worship as you do, is the basis of all ministry. Anything else has self and flesh in it and is not true worship or true love to God and actually has idolatry in it as we put a part of our fleshly desire before God.

### **Ministry and Relationships**

The Bible is a book of relationships - how people interact with God and each other. This principle of relating correctly is so important that salvation and eternal life are the result of a relationship (Jn17:3). There is even an order in these interactions that must be obeyed for life to be as God wants it to be:

Relationship to God

Relationship to your family

Relationship to friends and people where you work

Relationship to people you minister too.

**We are given guidelines on how to relate that can be summarized as follows:**

*Love God wholeheartedly and love others as God love you. Then we will have the conscience void of offence to all.*

God wants people who love as He does and who can minister in that love. While you have offended others and do nothing about it you are not showing love to them.

While you have unforgiveness in your heart to another you are not loving them. You are a hypocrite and you cannot come before God.

One of the main reasons Christians go to hell is unforgiveness. No matter how good a Christian life you live if you will not forgive anyone you will go to hell.

Until you love as God loves He cannot use you as He desires to and He may not be able to accept what you give or do and you may even be going to hell.

God is Love. We are His followers. We should Love as He does.

### **How do we not offend?**

We represent Jesus so when we do His will if anyone is offended then they are offended by Him as we are only the servant. The exception to this is when we do not

do things in love, humility and meekness and thus promote ourselves as having some part in the decision to correct instead of just being bearers of the Will of Jesus.

### **So how do we offend?**

Correcting others or disciplining others from our own reasonings and purposes and not what Jesus says in The Bible should be done.

Not correcting in meekness and humility but for our own purposes. We may be doing what The Bible says but are doing it for our own self-esteem or purposes.

Not showing God's Love in all we do and thus causing a person to be hurt in some way.

Any time self is the source of ministry it is guaranteed we will offend someone in some way.

### **Ministry versus Leadership Qualifications**

A study of the New Testament shows that the qualifications for a leader of a church are different to that of minister.

Unless both sets of qualifications are met, ministers should not be in charge of a church!

To be a leader, a man must rule his household properly and meet the other qualifications of a leader (deacon/elder).

Ministry is required of all as faithful stewards of the Gospel and ministers to and on the behalf of Jesus. Having the household in order is not one of the criteria for ministry. This explains why people can minister even though their family is failing apart around them! Everyone can minister but not everyone is called to be a leader.

Be careful you are where God wants you and do not be a leader if your household is not in order as Satan has every right to attack you as a result.

In Ephesian Ch 4:11 there are five roles mentioned in the church: Apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher. To this is added overseer (bishop and elder) and deacons (assistant to the other roles). There is nowhere in the Bible that these are called offices. An office is elected or vetted people and may be hereditary. The 'offices' are not hereditary or elected but appointments by God for service in the church. They are gifts to help the church grow as well as to guide or counsel it and not to administer it or rule it in the fashion most do these days. Remember, gifts are given by God to help others and not to rule them.

*Eph 4:11-12) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

There were no worship leaders, church secretary or other roles appointed as the deacons would have done all this and should be the people doing these things. (along with the elders as appropriate). Pastors should be pastoring and not administrating as that is not their function! Neither is administration a function of the other four roles mentioned in Ephesians.

**Note in Acts there is a division:**

*Act 6:2 - 4 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

Those who the spiritual leaders, gave themselves to waiting on God for His direction. Those who were involved with the ‘day to day’ running of the group gave themselves to serving others in this capacity.

**Types of Roles in Ministry**

<b>Ministry or Role</b>	<b>Area allocated to minister in</b>	<b>Relationship to Church</b>	<b>Duties</b>
Apostle	Global	Ministry to the whole body	Set up Churches
Prophets	Global	Ministry to the whole body	Guide, correct and encourage the Body
Evangelists	Global	Ministry to the whole body	Reach the lost outside the body
Bishop (Senior Pastor)	Local area of Churches	Ministry to pastors in the local area	Oversight of local pastors - meet their spiritual needs
Pastor	Local Church	Pastor the Ekklessia	Oversee the spiritual needs of the local Ekklessia especially elders
Teacher	Local Church	Teach the people in the church	Meet their spiritual knowledge needs
Elders	Local Church	Assist the Pastor	Meet the spiritual needs of the people entrusted to them
Deacons	Local Church	Serve in the physical day-to-day running of the church	Serve the church in the everyday physical duties involved in running an ekklessia
Fellow Helpers	No recognized ministry	Mature Christians using their gifts	Assist Pastors (elders), teachers and deacons as required
Babes in	Unable to	Immature	Accept teaching of Pastor

Christ	minister	Christians learning about their giftings	and Teachers and guidance of the others
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The above are the stated ministry roles in the New Testament. Nowhere is there mention of theological colleges or of globally or county wide central administration. Just Holy Spirit led people training others as they lived with them.

It is to be noted that most of these roles were not taught in The Didache.

**Limitations of Ministry**

People specialize as they misunderstand anointing and the so-called fivefold office. They limit themselves to one of these ‘offices’ and do not work on other areas. An example are prophets who ignore evangelism, teaching, and pastoring as they are ‘prophets.

You have the fulness of Jesus and The Holy Spirit so all these roles are in you but in different proportions and God will use them according to His need and not what we declare we do. That is one reason the church has been so limited as people are either afraid to move out of their ‘role’ or do not know how too. This fear or lack of interest in learning more of Jesus dishonours God.

Anointing is for ministry as God asks us to minister and not as we believe we should minister and thus limit ourselves accordingly. True that one ‘office’ will be stronger than another but all should be able to pastor, evangelize and teach in a small way as required by God. Anointing (authority) is given by The Holy Spirit as people need it not as they think they should have it.

People also go through stages as they mature.

And become more spiritually mature.

We should always be ready to give a basic account of the hope that is in us (being with Jesus in heaven) as well as how that hope arose (the Gospel and redemption), guiding people to that hope and how to live in that hope (teaching and Evangelism) removing hindrances from their former lifestyle (deliverance and healing) and comforting them in trials as they mature (pastor).

*“Despise not small things” (Zech 4:10)*

We are called to do what god gives us. We are not to look at what others do and compare our task to theirs as He is in charge of others and they are doing what He has directed them to do. We will not be accountable for what they do but only for what we are given to do.

Our focus should be on Jesus and His requirements of us and not what He requires of others. Each of us has our own personal plan formulated by Jesus for our best and to look at the plan He has made for another and compare it to our own is to be dissatisfied

with His Love, Control and Plan for you. It is also a form of idolatry.

*Phil 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

This verse would seem to imply we look at others work. This is a special case as we look to their labours to see if God wants us to help them and not just to compare their endeavours to ours for purposes of superiority or self-esteem.

### **Ministry - purpose of**

The purpose of the ministry is not to teach theology but an appreciation of the Love of God, an appreciation of the way God works in the life of people, an appreciation of whom God is as well as His helping them endure, to increase their faith and mature in their relationship with God. It is not theology but will include understanding about God for those who are interest and will also, at the same time as giving this understanding of 'basic theology,' show God's Love and Character and increase the faith of those being taught.

The purpose of ministry is to teach people how to relate to God, how to relate to each other, how to be good stewards of all God has given them, what God has done for them, what God requires of them as well as a proper perspective of who they are in Jesus. They are also to train others how to teach and do these things (2 Tim 2:2).

Central to this will be the Love and Compassion of God expressed in all they do.

They are also a comforter bringing the comfort of God to all who need it and encouraging them through times of trials.

Theology for the sake of theology is a waste of time. It is only as the principles of Christianity are applied does it have any meaning. Otherwise, it may as well be religious philosophy - words of 'knowledge' but useless to get you to heaven and to develop a relationship with God. Besides, the devil knows theology and the Bible better than any living person but He does not know Jesus in a personal relationship and rejects His authority which is why he is going to hell!

The citizens of God need to obey Jesus and transform into the image of Jesus and in doing this Jesus can use them to build His church - not just the so-called fivefold ministries but each one who follows Jesus. To limit it to the fivefold ministry as the church does in some way is to emphasis the hierarchical state of the church and not the fact all are called to minister and all have a gift that Jesus can use.

When this gift is used for the purposes of Jesus in obedience to him, society will be transformed, it will change people and as they obey society will be changed by His church. It is to be noted that Jesus did not use institutions to do his work but people. The purpose of ministers is to help people change into the image of Christ hence thus are to give themselves to prayer and fasting and not concern themselves with the day to

day running of a congregation.

### **Stewardship of Ministry**

Ministers are stewards of the service they are to give others and will give an account of this to God when they face Him for judgment of their life. They are servants and this the ministry God has given to them

### **Why minister?**

Out of Love for Jesus- you want everyone to know about this wonderful friend and Saviour and to have the freedom from the ravages of Satan's kingdom that Jesus offers too all!

As Good citizens of The Kingdom of God you tell others about your King and His Kingdom and what He has done for you.

To demonstrate Jesus and His Kingdom are real.

To set free people from the kingdom of darkness and heal the hurts they have from that kingdom.

Many ministers do not really minister that much. They are more like deacons or professional administrators, like firemen putting out spiritual spot fires between the members, elders and keeping relationships smooth with other churches in their denomination. Any minister not giving themselves completely to prayer and fasting and the ministry of The Word are behaving like deacons and are not following the patterns in Acts.

### **Who can minister?**

Anyone who is a Christian can minister. However, there are various levels of service according to Christian maturity and the danger is to minister at a level higher than you are ready for or have been authorised by God to minister at. Unfortunately, the latter happens often when people use man's methods to determine the ministry of a person and not those of God!

The person whose heart is to minister does not count the cost of ministry or look to any reward as He does the ministry because He loves Jesus so much and obeys the directive of Jesus to him as to where and when to minister.

### **The duties of a minister (a servant of Jesus and not the paid position)**

A minister firstly ministers (serves) Jesus and from this basis ministers on His behalf to others. He is not a servant of the denomination or local church but a minister of Jesus and the moment the denomination or the local church influences him adversely, so that He is not ministering to Jesus, he is no longer a minister of Jesus and minister of The Gospel but a paid servant of the denomination (a man-made entity) and



possibly out of God's Will as to what Jesus wants him to do.

**They are too:**

Proclaim the gospel of Jesus and The Kingdom of God, demonstrating its power and authority.

Ministers to those God has entrusted to them

Stand up for the Name (authority) Jesus and His laws and not condone the compromising of them in any way

They are to live as examples of citizens of The Father's Kingdom

They are to exhibit the Character of God

They are to show The Love of God in all they do

They are to teach others how to obtain the intimacy they should have with Jesus and The Holy Spirit.

A person ministering and not doing these is not a minister of Jesus but a hypocrite as he is proclaiming himself to be something he is not! And will be punished by God accordingly if He knowingly does not do what God requires of him.

**Why People Do Not Minister and other Hindrances to Ministering**

Not in a position to minister

Not being a Christian

Not being right with Jesus and the Holy Spirit

Not knowing what to teach

Too Immature

Lack of Maturity as a Christian

Not able to hear the call of God to minister to the person

Ministering according to natural wisdom when the advice (Words of knowledge) are required.

No spiritual growth so not in a position to minister

Lack of appreciation of these giftings so they do not minister in the areas these gifts were given to them to minister in so any ministry is not as effective as it could be

Fear of Man or ridicule

No Desire to minister

Lack of love for the person being ministered too  
Laziness (may have desire but too lazy to do it)  
No opportunities as none prayed for ('Lord use me' prayer!)  
They do not understand the freedom Jesus offers people

Not enough knowledge

Not being in the will of the Father in regards to what needs to be ministered to a person.

Do not know how to in the circumstances

Ignorance of the need to minister

Too busy to minister

Lack of belief in their ability to minister

Lack of belief in their authority to minister

Ignorant of the knowledge necessary to minister

Other Hindrances

Circumstances

Too tired to minister

Prevented by higher authorities in the spiritual (Jesus, demons) or the natural (Minister, Church government local or regional)

The person will not give you authority to minister

### **True Ecumenicism**

This does not exist except in the religious structures man has made.

We are not Italian, Aboriginal, Australian etc except as man has made us by categorising where we are born. We are a citizen of The Kingdom of God and live in areas that have been categorised as Aboriginal, European or whatever. Our allegiance is to Jesus and in that there is unity in The Holy Spirit.

The moment we bring in man-emphasised things we are reinforcing the systems Satan has set up to bind and blind people to the truth of our relationship to God as a citizen of His Kingdom but on earth.

Only as we come to each other as a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven is there true fellowship. Otherwise, we will be protecting some of the religious area man has classified us as belonging too.

## **Delayed Ministry**

People are frustrated because their spouse is holding up their ministry. First of all, it is not their ministry. It belongs to Jesus and He can do with it what He wants, when He wants. His desire is for the other spouse to be saved or mature in Him and what these people miss when blaming the other spouse is that God is using the situation to mature them more to his image along with their salvation and maturity in Jesus as they turn their affections to the spouse.

God is using this situation to teach them His Love for all as well as mould them to the image of Jesus (if they handle it correctly). Remember Jesus is King and He desires all to be saved or reach their maturity in Him and your task is to work with Him in this and not desire that He will not give you until you have finished the task, He has for you in regard to your spouse.

If you cannot love and minister to your spouse, how can He give others to you to love and minister to. This is a principle. If you cannot Love and minister to your family, how can He give others to you to minister too!

So, you need to be in communication with The Holy Spirit so He can guide you to minister as Jesus desires to your spouse and when you have fulfilled this test then to others as He directs.

If the spouse does not respond it, is their problem. All you are required to do is to love them and minister to them as Jesus tells you too.

## **Where is the church I can fellowship with?**

This is becoming a more common question these days amongst citizens of The Kingdom.

Our leader is Jesus

His Guide the Holy Spirit

It is The Holy Spirit in us that makes us part of the true church - not an assembly

A church can be you and Jesus as Led by The Holy Spirit

As you walk in The Spirit

He will bring you to those He wants you to fellowship with

Not those you think you should

The problem is most do not walk in The Spirit as they should

As they still use too much reason.

It is a leadership problem

But people are looking for the wrong type of leaders

### **Denominations and The Kingdom**

When you became a Christian, you became a citizen of The Kingdom of God. Your primary allegiance is to your King, Jesus. You do not become a member of a denomination or house church or similar except for the legal purposes of man.

The moment a minister tries to take away the authority of Jesus by interposing themselves between Jesus and you they have overstepped their authority. They have taken His place. Instead of nurturing and serving as gifts from Jesus to the church they rule as masters instead of servants to another.

Ministers are guides not rulers according to Jesus. They are to give themselves to prayer and fasting according to the Book of Acts and not to administrative work. This fasting is as God defines it in the Old Testament.

Jesus is King (ruler) and The Holy Spirit is the guide of those in the Kingdom of God. So, if these are not in place in a person's life and another has usurped any of their rule in a person then at worst, the person is not in the Kingdom of God and at best they are not in a correct relationship with God.

We have manmade structures and this is the problem with churches. They attempt to unify through man's methods and administrative structures and not through the unity The Holy Spirit provides. Hence reason and man's methods become the criteria for unity because the guidance of The Holy Spirit is not followed or even really sought. The Holy Spirit is not considered necessary or used as a guide as the rules of man have become more important than The Holy Spirit's guidance.

So, more of the world's methods are used and The Holy Spirit becomes less and less important. The successful methods of management and expansion (people and assets) are copied as they work. They are no longer led by The Holy Spirit and are comfortable in the system they have created.

Unfortunately, man's methods are what Satan uses and not God.

To restore the church God must remove the system that man has created and this is starting to happen. Churches are having problems balancing budgets as God removes disillusioned people from them and the money coming in is reduced. Also, natural disasters are wiping out churches and their surrounding areas removing ministers and their livelihoods.

Jesus will continue to remove the infrastructure until they have nothing left but Him.

This reaches its peak in the tribulation.

We are being trained for this time of cleansing in the church and we need to be ready to step in and point those that will listen, to Jesus.

Are you ready to survive what He is going to do and minister to those in the church who have lost all in this purging?

### **Unity in The Body of Christ**

While the Gifts may be used for evangelism to show the Love of God the main reason for them is to build up and heal the body of believers that forms the true church. Man's reasoned ways and management systems cannot meet the spiritual need of the body of Christ. This is why church management programs and counselling based on man's psychology (and similar) do not meet the needs of this spiritual body. This is why churches neglecting the Gifts of The Holy Spirit eventually 'die' spiritually having the form of Christianity but not the power to show they are different to man's organizations. They become irrelevant and no longer a force or focal point of the community and what they do or believe will mean nothing to the community.

The true church is one and indivisible, not a denominationalised system where each has their own slant on theology and denominational rules. Paul deals with this and the unity of the body after he lists the gifts.

*12 - 14 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many*

We are not baptised into a denomination if we are a follower of Jesus! We are baptised into the church of Jesus - one, indivisible, each part needing the others. If one part does not play its part all the other members will suffer in some way!

That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another, expressing God's Love in all they do.

When this verse is fulfilled then will the true church be in unity defeating the enemy of God completely using the delegated authority of Jesus and the Gifts and Power of The Holy Spirit.

### **Spiritual Authority in the church**

Note church and denomination are different. The denomination is made up of man's rules and people are authorised by the denomination to work in it but this is administrative. The denomination has no right to authorise spiritual authority as it is a man-made society and not a spiritual one, even though it tries to control the spiritual. The church is the Kingdom of God on earth. It can only be ruled by Jesus but it does have mature Christians to be advisors and help guide people and do His work. This advising is the work of the roles in Eph 4:11.

The denominations promote their denomination as its ministers are sworn to follow its

rules and thus have a conflict between the Kingdom of God and their denomination but the citizen of The Kingdom of God promotes only Jesus and His will and by this automatically will come into confrontation with denominations, unless the pastor is a maverick and preaches Jesus before the denominations' requirements. This conflict is obvious when the Bible is secondary to the administration of the denomination and things that are not Biblical are allowed by the denomination (e.g., homosexual marriages).

### **Pastor**

Hebrew word is used mainly for "keeper of the sheep." The concept is old testament and is carried over into the new.

### **Bishop**

The words used in the old testament instead for 'bishop' that are relevant for this discussion, are 'overseer' and 'office.' The New Testament word means 'overseer.'

In Both it is the spiritual element that is referred to. Administration and running of churches as we are told in Acts. is the role of a deacon. God has separated the spiritual side from the physical side so a pastor should not be involved in church administration or 'empire' building except to wait on God and resolve problems in the administration under the Guidance of The Holy Spirit.

The passage is as follows:

*Act 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.*

*Act 6:2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

*Act 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

*Act 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

*Act 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:*

*Act 6:6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.*

*Act 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

In v.1 we are told of an administrative problem arose that was causing disputes in the church. So, the Apostle (read pastors in this capacity) prayed and gave the answer that administration and pastoring are separate roles (V3,4) and as things were in their correct place the church prospered and grew.

### **So, what is the role of a bishop or pastor?**

They deal with the spiritual side of things so are the spiritual counsellors of the church but do not run the administrative side or get involved with the finances or other worldly matters except to advice what God's attitude to the problem is. They are to resolve administrative disputes if they are referred to them as they are to give spiritual guidance in these and not reasoned guidance. (God's methods are different men's and reason stops Him working at times). Accordingly, they do not promote the church but promote Jesus. Expansion is not worldly but spiritual and administrative problems in regards to this expansion should usually be dealt with by the deacons. The Pastor's work is teach people how to live and fight for the King so that the Kingdom of God is expanded and not the physical kingdom of the church.

### **So, what does a shepherd do?**

He takes the sheep to food but they must eat themselves (Bible)

He takes them to water but they must drink themselves (Holy Spirit)

He helps them when they have problems (As does Jesus)

God provides the earth and water for the physical needs of the sheep

He provides any spiritual guidance and training they may need.

The bishop (overseer) is a pastor to pastors (he has been the role of helping) to help them and guide them as necessary. Outside of that he does not have that role and may have another role.

The role of pastor and bishop is to a specific circle of people and outside that circle they may have other roles and should minister only in the roles they have for the area they are ministering in at the time.

### **The Authority of the Pastor**

The one verse that mentions pastors is in Eph 4. Nowhere in there is there authority delegated to pastors, apostles, evangelists, teachers, or prophets. In fact, in there they are told that their role is that of servants and guides.

The passage is as follows.

*11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

*12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

*13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

*14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

*15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

*16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

Their role is not to rule but to minister, building up and guiding people to be like Jesus.

Another verse that indicates the role of a pastor (elder) is 1 Tim 3:4-5

*1 Ti 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;*

*1 Ti 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)*

Notice they are to take care of the church of God. You take care of something on behalf of the owner of the item which in this case is Jesus. Once again, I do not see Jesus delegating his rule of the church to people only its care and maturing (stewardship of and not authority over).

How then is the church run? It is to be run by deacons led by guided by The Holy Spirit in regard to the physical side and on the spiritual side through Godly men who obey His leading and minister to those who need ministry.

In a sense a father is pastor to his family and the pastor is like a 'bishop' to the fathers in the church assisting them in their raising of their children. The Bishop, of course is like a father to pastors and may not even have a church to pastor himself. The needs of the church cannot be met by a sermon on Sunday that is general in nature but is met as pastors meet with fathers and problems are discussed and as fathers study the Bible



and teach it to their children. This is what the Bible advises and the church has rejected or neglected.

### **How did Jesus want us to minister?**

In Matthew 20:25-28 he stated how one is to minister.

*25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.*

*26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;*

*27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:*

*28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

We are not to rule others as Kings and governments do as that is the way of Satan and the world system. To be great (note great and not a ruler) you minister to others and to be chief you are their servant (not ruler). This is the example of Jesus who was joint ruler of all creation and gave that up to serve us. This is the lesson for ministers and all who would minister and be great in the Kingdom of God and unfortunately it is ignored by most of the church today.

### **Who are they accountable for?**

Denominational things to denominations

Pastors to Jesus as stewards of the spiritual things of his church

Deacons to Jesus as stewards of administrative things of the church.

### **How are they judged?**

Jesus said they are judged by their words (what they say) and by their fruit (what they do).

### **How are they punished?**

If they will not listen to correction they are cast out of fellowship and given over to Satan in the hope they will repent. If they repent then they are to be allowed to minister in accordance with The Holy Spirit's directions.

When ministers understand their role in the Kingdom of God and discipline according to the rules of this Kingdom then will the Kingdom grow

In summary it is pointed out that the whole point of the New Testament relationship is that we have direct access to Jesus and no longer need to go through an intermediary to

know Him and hear His Will for us. A Christian who cannot hear The Holy Spirit needs to ask themselves why and deal with that problem as He is the guide to the church and ministers will only tell you what He will tell you Himself.

### **The Calling of a Minister**

The calling of all Christians is to serve and represent God, the ruler of all things. To show His Majesty, Power and Kingdom and bring Him Glory through our activities as well as to teach, preach and demonstrate our relationship to God and His Kingdom and all they stand for. As they do this, God will give them promotion in His kingdom and honour as well. In this sense we all are ministers as we all are stewards of what God gives us to minister with to others as we relate to others.

This honour and promotion will not be found in the things the world holds precious as they have been ordained and brought into being by Satan, the enemy of our King. They will be found as we serve others and further our King's work in this world and when we finally arrive at the Kingdom of our King, in heaven.

What should our life be like. It is obvious that following the things of this world and what it presents to us in its communication (media and people) will not usually serve the purposes of The King as his enemy is normally behind their preparation and we are encompassed on all sides by this war against our king.

How do we protect ourselves against the error around us? We study and meditate on the guidelines of our King so we can apply them correctly and see the errors around us and not be trapped by them. Because we know the errors around us, we can better show how superior the kingdom of our King is as well as warn people of the errors and lies that this world of our King's enemy offers too all.

How are we to evaluate our life and service? We use the guidelines of our King so that we are not trapped into the web of deception our enemy has made to control his subjects and thus have our effectiveness reduced in regard to the service of our King.

As we walk in The Holy Spirit's guidance, we will avoid these problems and minister where Jesus wants us to and how Jesus wants us to. Everyone who ministers, who is not walking in the guidance of The Holy Spirit may actually be hindering the work of Jesus.

### **An error to avoid**

Jesus said: "I will build my Church" in Mat 16:18 and that "My kingdom is not of this world" in John 18:36.

There is an error where people proclaim the Kingdom of God is on earth and that we should be building it. How can they build something Jesus says is not on earth or not himself building. He states He is building His Church (the assembly of His people and not a denomination), not The Kingdom of God on earth.

His Kingdom is found in His people and not in any manmade structure built on earth.

It is the right of the God to build his Kingdom and that is in heaven and on His people and if it is the right of the head of the church, Jesus, to build His church which is on earth. What then is our role?

We are to serve Jesus as directed so that he can proceed with his overall plan for building His Church on earth as well as allow The Holy Spirit to prepare us as the Bride of Jesus.

### **What should be taught to build this church**

As Jesus is our Lord, we need to obey Him and minister to Him in all we do and He will direct us in who He wants us to minister too as well as how He desires us to minister to them. Anything else is idolatry as it places our desires before that of our Lord Jesus. We have the example of Jesus to follow, the most perfect man that ever lived.

### **What did he do and how should we respond to this?**

He taught the principles of living and serving God to all who would listen (discipling) as well as those who did not know them (evangelism) and warned those that knew them but ignored them to repent. We should be doing and teaching what Jesus taught.

He demonstrated the authority, power, and character of a servant of The Father. Our lives should also show the authority of Jesus over demons, illness, and infirmity (both spiritual and physical)

He died for the purposes of The Father. If we love The Father we will die for His purposes if need be but only as He tells us too.

He lived a life led by its guide (The Holy Ghost) bringing honour to The Father. We should be led by The Holy Spirit bringing honour only to Jesus and The Father.

He lived a life of Love, showing the Character of God (Love) and the attitudes a follower of God should have. We too should be noted for our Love and moderation as well as the other attitudes a Christian should have and express.

He defended God's Name and Laws against His enemies. We too should defend the Name and Laws of The Father when His Name and character is blasphemed, abused, mocked, ridiculed, or used inappropriately in comedy or movies etc.

He sought His Father's Will in all areas. We should seek the Will of God in all we do in preference to our own.

### **General Comments on Churches**

When I talk about a church, I do not mean the building or a denomination. I mean the people, as they are the true church. The building is just a convenience to meet and

associate together but a house or hall is just as useful for this as dedicated buildings and cost less to maintain. Buildings glorify man and not God.

### **The modern church is like the temple:**

God says we cannot build a house/church to contain Him. So, we build places where we go to meet with God and worship Him there even though God is in us and everywhere and said we cannot really build these places. All that happens in these dedicated places can happen in other buildings and only occur there for denominational purposes.

*Is 66:1 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?*

In these we have someone placed in front to lead and guide us to meet God, even though God is in us and we can hear him without the need for an intermediary.

So, all focus on the leader and are guided by them even though we are unified by The Holy Spirit in us and are able to be led by Him directly.

We give authority to the minister over us even though we serve Jesus alone and are not to serve any man by giving them authority over us. To minister to others, you need to be their servant. The minister is chief and according to The Bible is to be your servant.

*Mat 20: 26-27 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:*

Thus, Satan hides the true nature of these things so people do not worship as they should and serve as they should.

### **Church Structure**

I am going out on a limb with this and will probably upset many but I think you do not understand the structure of the kingdom of God

It is not hierarchical like Satan's It is flat based on a personal relationship –

You and Jesus!

All are in this personal relationship

guided by The Holy Spirit so we do not need leaders

we have one called Jesus whose Spirit is guiding us

What we need are mature Holy Spirit guided people to help others

That is different to a leader and is how Jesus described these people in His teachings – Servants, who helped to mature people not control them

The structure of the Kingdom which the church reflects is

Jesus then You as guided by The Holy Spirit

Mature people are called to guide and help others and preach as directed

None of this 9-5.00 mentality and “I preach each week as I am appointed to this” claim

This is why a person can be out of the established church and still serve God as the structure is flat and they have The Holy Spirit to guide them

The problem is not the structure. It is man’s obedience and willingness to listen to The Holy Spirit

### **Church Organisation**

The basic church is you and Jesus

How you organise units of this is called a church

The problem is people are going to man’s reasoned ways and not letting The Holy Spirit be the leader of this church, to organise the groupings as He wants as what is good in one place may not be so good in another

The other problem is people are not taught how to hear the holy spirit so that these flexible groupings can happen as He desires them too

What happens in the underground church is different to that which can be done in Iran or Iraq and to that which can be done in West. So, to have a ‘structure’ for a church excludes those who cannot fit into that structure

We need to know Jesus, not church structures, and hear His holy spirit and as we obey so that:

we will be where He wants us to be

in the groups He wants us to be in

in the way He wants it done

### **Ministry in the early church**

When a person needed ministry in the early church, he did not look for a someone qualified by a university or bible school (they did not exist). He did not look for a place that had offices or special areas set aside for ministry (these came in hundreds of years later). He found it around the communal table at their love feasts, or as they walked with a fellow Christian or in the public areas of a house.

He did not get it from people who had been trained for four years, or who had done prescribed courses, or pastors who ran a church, but from mature Christians who knew Jesus, not much theology and had little learning. But they knew The Bible and how to apply it.

Today we have the education, the prescribed courses, the special places but we do not have the miracles of the early church that had none of these. Perhaps that says it all

### **Why is God using nobodies**

People have been called to wondrous ministries and wonder why. They are nobodies and wonder why God has chosen them for these global or national ministries. Well today I was told.

They are people who can be in these ministries because God alone has gotten them there. They know there is nothing they could have done to be there, doing what they are doing. So, they can never say “Mine own hand has done this” and will rely on God in ministry as they have in His moulding to get them there and know they are there only because of what He has done in their life.

He wants people who know they need Him. who will walk close to Him which is the reason for the fiery trials they have all been through where all was removed except Him.

As they obey Him in their problems, He is moulding them to what he needs them to be for His service so he can send them forth. Many are called but few are chosen and how they handle the trial determines if they are chosen or not. This is how they are sorted out.

Those that will not respond He does not waste time with and these have what appears to be an easy Christian lifestyle. Those who respond he pushes to their limit to make them the best they can be and so worthy to be used by Him in the three waves of revival to come.

Blesses are they who are part of the first wave. They will rule as kings and queens with him now, in the Millennium and the ages to come after that.

### **Servanthood**

Jesus told us that leaders are servants and that role of a minister of Jesus, and thus a servant, was to be desired if you would be ‘great’ in the Kingdom of The Father.

This servant attitude reflects that of God and by this you show you are His servant reflecting His nature.

God keeps us all alive (both good and wicked) and provides for our needs. He does not force Himself on us as He has given us free will. He guides us to help us make the right decisions but gives us the freedom to reject His advice. This is the second aspect

of a servant. He is a teacher. The true teacher is also a servant.

**ASo the role of a servant is defined:**

Assist others to help themselves when they are unable to

Teach others to help themselves when they are able to, and to

Bring people to a knowledge of truth of God and of His works

Teach them how to correctly relate intimately to God.

Thus was the nature of God's servant, Jesus - the greatest servant of all

**The Way we Work**

The way we work can be used to:

Glorify God by our attitude to the task

Prepare us for service in heaven and the Millennium

Develop skills that can be used to help others

Develop our self-esteem , as we are serving God in a ministry, He has given us

Show our attitude and acceptance of God's will as we do tasks we do not like but which He has given us.

*(2 Th 3:10) For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*

Is this verse a cure for the dole and the 'hippy' culture?

**The Battle**

In the world there is a battle going on between the forces of evil and the forces of God. Whether you like it or not, you are either on-the side of God or the side of Satan. By default, inactivity places you in the kingdom of Darkness. Only as you strive to do the work of Jesus and obey Him in all things are you assured of citizenship in the Kingdom of The Father.

Ministers should be teaching us how to fight this battle. But most are not so that the church is a victim, and not a victor in many areas which is why Satan rules so many things in this world.

The purposes of the Lord Jesus' ministry was to rescue people from the kingdom of darkness then show them how to live as citizens of the Kingdom of The Father, removing them from their bondages and captivity to the king of darkness and then to restore them to The King of Light with all the privileges and responsibilities of a citizen of the Kingdom of Light.

Through His death, Jesus showed He had the authority to judge the works of darkness and restore those who are willing to the Kingdom of God!

A person involved in the deliverance ministry is a child of God, a citizen of the King, promoting the Kingdom of God and Jesus in all He does! As one of their outlets of ministry they seek to restore people to the intimate, personal, relationship with God mankind had in the garden of Eden through the breaking of the holds the kingdom of darkness has over people.

Only the deliverance ministry delivers the spirit from the bondages and captivity of the kingdom of darkness and, coupled with healing, restores them spiritually, emotionally, and mentally.

It is because the church has ignored the deliverance ministry and living as a citizen of The Kingdom of God that so many Christians are still worldly in their lifestyle as they try to escape the dross and weight placed upon them by the kingdom of darkness. When evangelism is coupled with deliverance and healing, then will people live as Jesus requires them to, until then they will be fighting their 'flesh' and struggle to live the life they know they should live burdened by the weight and cares the kingdom of darkness placed on them.