



Ephesians 4:11-12 KJV 11 And he gave some, APOSTLES; and some, PROPHETS; and some, EVANGELISTS; and some, PASTORS and TEACHERS; 12 For the *perfecting of the saints, or the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

Introduction:

God has ordained that the primary vein of Apostolic ministry should come through the leadership of His church. Nevertheless, the ministry of a congregation cannot be underestimated, and must not be undervalued.

Each of us, *regardless of age*, is commanded by God to play our role in helping visitors find our local church to be a place of spiritual welcome; and for fellow believers a place of refuge, to support their spiritual wellbeing.

You, *right now*, are a vital part of this church's success!

While the ministry of a congregation may be more subtle in its approach and methods, it is no less effective and necessary to keep the unsaved coming to the church, and for the spiritual growth of fellow believers.

Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV [*emphasis added*]

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you *are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*

20 *built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,*

21 in whom *the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.*

22 In him you also are *being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

We are... *Joined Together, Grow Together, and are Built Together.*

1st Truth _____ .

God has neither designed or intended that the full scope of a church's mission and purpose be carried out by the Pastor(s), board members, department heads and other lay ministries.

Matthew 28:19 KJV *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

2nd Truth _____ .

Christ's command was that we work both *with* each other, and we work *for* each other.

Galatians 5:13 KJV *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

3rd Truth _____ .

"Even If there was no group of believers, or Apostolic church nearby, what I know demands action on my part!"

1 Corinthians 9:16 ESV *For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!*

1) The Ministry of *Encouragement*

The most common word for encouragement in the Bible is "*parakaleo*." "Para" meaning "beside, near, with, along side," and "kaleo" meaning "to call or summon." A "paraclete" is someone called along side of another to counsel, encourage, help and bring comfort.

Point! There is always more room in the Apostolic church for Spirit-filled encouragers!

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

Hebrews 3:13 NIV *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

A few examples of those who need Encouragement;

- *Is struggling in their faith or some issue of sin.*
- *Taken a leap of faith & hasn't seen the reward yet.*
- *Has recently gone through a difficult life event.*
- *Aspiring to working in Apostolic ministry.*
- *Is in the middle of a tough spiritual season.*
- *Those who are breathing, and have a pulse.*

Romans 1:11-12 KJV

11 *For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established,*
12 *That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.*

*"Flatter me, and I may not believe you.
Criticize me, and I may not like you.
Ignore me, and I may not forgive you.
Encourage me, and I will not forget you."*

~ William Arthur Ward

2) The Ministry of Usefulness

Each of us can play our part to create a spirit (or mood) of unity and friendship within our local assembly.

Acts 2:42, 44, 46-47 KJV

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

- They gave preference to one another.
- They mingled devotion with all their actions.
- They kept a good conscience, "singleness of heart."
- They commanded the esteem of observers.
- They lived in happiness, "gladness."
- God sent great revival, even adding to the church 'daily'.

Notes: _____

3) The Ministry of Expectancy

Folks who come to the church service looking forward to, anticipating, desiring, indeed *expecting* a robust move of the Holy Ghost. They wake up Sunday morning and say "we are going to have great church today!"

Romans 5:3-5 The Message Paraphrase

3 There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us,

4 and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next.

5 In *alert expectancy* such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary — we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!

Notes: _____

4) The Ministry of Consistency

Consistent = unchanging in nature, standard, or effect over time.

1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Luke 16:13 KJV No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon

- **By our Attendance** – Showing up every time the doors are open sends a clear message to others about our priorities and spiritual health.
- **By our Action** – Engaging in collective worship, prayer, giving (etc.) helps to create a culture of unity for others.
- **By our Absence** – Illness, vacations, and other events come from time to time. These must be the exception, not the rule.
- **By our Abstinence** – Refraining from participating in worship services or other church events is a sure sign of one's spiritual decline.

Notes: _____

5) The Ministry of Worship

John 4:23-26 KJV

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

The Ministry of Worship:

- Creates an atmosphere where the lost can be found(sinners) and the weary can become rested(saints).
- Increases awareness of God and decreases apprehension of self.
- Helps others feel comfortable letting down their guard and make that first step towards repentance.
- Cultivates an atmosphere of affection for the unbelievers or those who are spiritually drained.
- Influences the tempo and tone of a worship service, and prepares the church for the Word (Preaching).

Hebrews 10:23-24 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

23 So let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgment of it, for He Who promised is reliable (sure) and faithful to His word.

24 And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, *studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities...*

Lord, bless me with the courage to fulfill MY role within YOUR church!