



The Art of Christian Leadership

Working Towards Authentic Ministry

A Crossroads Leadership Seminar

Working Towards Authentic Ministry

Introduction:

There seems to be a growing sense of confusion as to what constitutes ministry and when someone can be said to be doing ministry.

Part of the confusion rises from a sincere desire to affirm every believer and their contribution as meaningful and significant. In doing so, we have thrown a wide net over every kindness, every act of volunteerism, and every form of employment within a church or Christian organization dubbing it “**ministry**”. **But is it?**

The problem with this approach is that if anything or everything is dubbed “**ministry**” and everyone is said to be in “**ministry**” we run the risk of ministry losing its unique and high calling. When we diminish those qualities that make something unique we end up with something less than its original intent & purpose. When original intent and purpose are lost so will be the impact and meaning.

Over the last number of years some common denominators have emerged which are used by people to dub what they do a “ministry”. The four most prominent are:

- 1. Surrounding yourself with other believers in a work Environment thereby making it "Christian" – who you work with doesn't make something a ministry.**
- 2. Getting paid lower wages by your employer than you would receive from another company or organization, for the same services, not claiming to be "Christian" or in ministry – what you are paid or NOT paid doesn't make what you do a ministry.**
- 3. Working in a morally & spiritually agreeable environment – your work environment doesn't make it a ministry.**
- 4. Any work done for a Christian church or organization,**

whether as a paid staff member or as a volunteer – [working for a church or Christian organization doesn't make what you do a ministry.](#)

Now, I don't want to burst anyone's bubble but none of the things I've mentioned are found in a biblical understanding of ministry.

If these things don't point to what makes something a ministry then what does? What constitutes genuine ministry?

A perusal of the Scriptures gives us ten components [which authenticate and dub something as ministry.](#) These ten components, when [practiced by us,](#) change any mediocre and mundane job or task into a ministry.

As you will learn in this session **it's not what you do that determines if you are in ministry but how you do what you do.** You might have the title and position of a ministry but may in fact not be doing anything that would make what you are doing a ministry.

The title of our session is **"The Art of Christian Leadership – Working Towards Authentic Ministry".**

During this session we will examine the **Ten Components of Authentic Ministry*** as well as **The Seven Hindrances to Ministry.**

But before examining these I'd like to give you the following basic, yet definitive, definition of ministry -- ministry is service done for God, to others, with God's purposes and aims for them in mind.

You'll notice in this definition there's no "you". You'll notice also that there is no specific job or title, such as Youth Ministry, in the definition.

The reason again is that it is not what you do that determines if you are in ministry but how you do what you do! **If the Ten Components of Authentic Ministry are somehow missing from your "ministry" activity then you possibly don't have a ministry!**

* taken from the *Ten Power Principles For Christian Service: Ministry Dynamics for a New Century* by Warren Wiersbe and *Making Sense of Ministry* pp. 31-46 by David and Warren Wiersbe.

Now with that definition in mind let's examine The Ten Components of Authentic Ministry:

#1. The "Foundation" of ministry is intimacy with God as both the Father and Lord of our lives.

There are two things I want you to understand about intimacy as the foundation of ministry. The first is that

a). Intimacy with God is the prerequisite to any ministry and is the essential quality that makes something a ministry, for Ministry has a very distinctive characteristic in that it emerges from intimacy with God.

Ministry emerging from intimacy with God can be seen in the lives of a number of Bible characters. For example:

- **Jesus in the Wilderness.** In preparation for the launch of His ministry Jesus spent 40 days and nights in a desert wasteland fasting and praying -- each, which enhances intimacy with God -- before officially seeking to launch His ministry.

- **Paul, the architect of the NT.** Spent the first 14 years following his conversion in the desert of Arabia studying Scriptures and being alone with God, building intimacy with Him. From those years of intimacy grew the knowledge of God and His will that not only launched the greatest missions endeavor ever but would result in the production much of the New Testament which has come to define our faith and practice.

- **John the Apostle.** It was after John was exiled to the remote & desolate island of Patmos, that John built an even greater life of intimacy with God. It was here, during his times of intimacy with God, that John received that great revelation, recorded as the book Revelation.

When it comes to ministry beware of any work for God that enables you to evade concentration on Him.

Without the unique quality of intimacy with God, from which ministry emerges, we do not have ministry, we have a job; perhaps

one we are quite good at but only a job for which we are compensated for services rendered.

The 2nd thing I want you to understand about intimacy as the foundation of ministry is this ...

b). It is our intimacy with God that transforms the mundane, average, and insignificant into a service of heavenly importance.

Take a look at a few passages of Scriptures which will help us understand this point:

1. John 13:1-17 -- As we see here the things Jesus did were often the most menial and commonplace. **Yet, Jesus drew God into everything** and by doing so He made the most menial and **monotonous chores** a holy experience as well as a faithful **service done** to God (v. 2-4).

What we can learn from this is that **it takes all of God's power in us to do the most menial & commonplace things, in His way.**

Greatness in the kingdom of God is not measured by how high you rise but by how low you stoop; not by what your fellow man says about you and the praise he gives you or the value he finds in your work but in what the Master says about you and **the value He finds in your work.**

2. In Luke 21:1- 4 it was the Widow's heart for giving and her attitude in her giving that set her gift apart from all the rest, not the amount.

3. In Luke 19:11-27 the Parable of the Ten Minas. It was a lack of understanding of the true character of the Master by the one worker/employee that led to his wrong attitudes and lousy business ethics.

This employee envied the boss and therefore justified his lack of giving 125% of his energies to the work entrusted to him.

This employee didn't have any form of a relationship with the boss certainly nothing resembling intimacy. **And in the absence of intimacy this employee was not able to transform the mundane and average into either a service or a ministry!**

4. In Ephesians 6:5-9 Paul calls upon slaves who were in an inferior position within Roman society, without rights or redress of grievances, to work from a different heart and attitude even in the most miserable of conditions.

In doing so Paul calls them to **lift the work they do from slavery to service to Christ, i.e. ministry!**

5. In Colossians 3:22-4:1 Paul doesn't call for a correction of the social order, but a correction of the believers perception and therefore their outlook. **In this case Paul is reminding us that more often than not it is my outlook that determines my output!**

From these passages of Scripture we come to understand that for something to be elevated from a job to ministry requires a ever growing and deepening intimacy with God.

Without intimacy with God you have lost the source from which ministry springs and is feed.

So the question I must ask you is this "is what you are calling 'ministry' built upon a foundation of intimacy with God?"

The second component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#2. The "Nature" of ministry is service.

Ministry has a very unique quality in that it emerges from intimacy with God **but it is always performed in service to and for the benefit of another human being.**

The word "**ministry**" is from the Greek term meaning "**to serve**". Remember, our Lord Himself said He "**did not come to be served, but to serve**" (Mark 10:45a).

Sadly, many of God's people have chosen to emulate the Pharisees rather than Jesus. We have given up the role of working to be the greatest servant and instead we have sought "**the place of honor at banquets, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places**" (Matt. 23:6-7a).

Let's take a look at a couple of Scripture passages which remind us of the roles we take on in ministry:

John 13:1-5

"It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him."

Now skip down to vs. 12-17

"When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. 'You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 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. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

There are 3 principles Christ has in mind when He says, "Now that you know these things"

(1) Christians must be willing to do the most menial tasks as a service to Christians -- Church leaders must set the example for this by modeling in their lives and busy schedules this principle to those they lead.

You must fix this understanding upon your heart and mind -- only when we step below our status, only when we do things beneath us are we demonstrating a servant's heart and attitude.

In many cases the young man or young adult who avails himself for work in the 9yrs old Sunday School class or the 3yrs old class rather than the adults meeting is acting more like a genuine servant than if he'd taken the adults meeting. For the adults meeting carries a certain amount of prestige - something working with children doesn't.

(2) You cannot expect to do ministry, in particular church leadership, any differently then the model set down by Christ.

That model is not based upon titles, prestige, position or the exercise of the power that came with the office; it was not about using or manipulating situations or others to serve your needs.

Christ's model was focused upon the need of the other person and what He could do to help them.

According to John 13:15-17 it is things like towels, dishes, toting suitcases, etc. which reveals more quickly than anything else what we are made of.

(3) Service to God is always performed through service to His people.

Individuals are called into God's service to serve Him **by serving others**. Jesus reminds us of this in John 13:16 and this same statement with minor variations is repeated over and over again by Christ, driving home the point. (Jn 15:20, Matt 10:24, Lk 6:40, 22:24-27)

Perhaps it is important we take some time to make sure we understand the concept of a servant within the context Jesus saw and understood it.

Perhaps the best source for understanding what precisely a servants heart & mind is can be found by looking at those Scripture passages dealing with slaves who'd become Christians - Col. 3:22; Eph. 6:5-8; Titus 2:9-15 (in Titus emphasize vs. 11-15 as what is working behind the scenes of a servants heart enabling him/her to do what vs. 9-10 demand); I Tim. 6:1-2.

We'll take a look at just two of these - Col. 3:22 and Eph. 6:5-8 (read)

What kind of "picture" can we draw of a servant's heart and attitude from these passages? From Col. 3:22 & Eph. 6:5-8 we know that a servant is one who:

a). obeys at all times - he is not able to negotiate what he/she will or will not do; he is not able to do what he/she feels like doing or when it is convenient.

b). is trustworthy - he carries out his duties whether or not the Master is there to watch over him and makes sure he does it.

c). doesn't curry favor - he does his duties not to win favor, not to advance his position but he does them in a manner which reflects upon his character as an individual.

d). possess an overarching reverence for God - he carries out his duties with an overarching reverence for God - even though his earthy boss/master benefits from the work the servant knows and holds in his mind the reality that he is working ultimately for the Lord.

e). balances the "losses" he experiences in this life as a servant with his "gains" in heaven as a saint & inheritor of a reward.

f). shows complete respect to those over him (I Tim 6:1-2)

g). possess a strong work ethic - he seeks to do his duties in a way that is pleasing to the Master, not himself. Many people want to serve, but they want to do it their way.

Once we mentally know the principles Christ was communicating to future Church leaders, we have to ask the same question Christ asked, "Do you understand?"

Do we, as leaders understand the principles and accept them as living, guiding principles, the keys to effective ministry?

The third component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#3. The "Motive" for ministry is love.

How prominent is love in your ministry? Do those you are ministering to actually believe you have their best interests at heart?

Are you involved in this ministry because you love them? **That's right I said are you involved in this ministry because you love those you are claiming to serve?**

Our love for Christ is the overarching reason for our getting involved in ministry **BUT our reason for staying involved** is God's love for each them.

Numerous Scriptures remind us that love for the brethren is one of our prime principals and the distinguishing marks of our faith and allegiances to Christ.

Illustration: My Youth Group in Ventura from '79 to '88

If you spoke with any of the young people who were under my ministry for these 10 years from 1979 – 88 none of them could tell you even one sermon that I preached that ever change their lives and put them on the right road with Christ.

However, what they would tell you about is the way Jeanne and I loved them into the kingdom; they would tell you about the fun times we shared together; they would tell you about the moments when I spoke a "word" into their lives that became a turning point for their lives.

They would tell you of the firm correction I often gave them in love but they would also tell you too that they knew of my love and devotion to them above all else.

After being gone for 10 years from Ventura I had the opportunity to speak there on Sunday morning. When I stood up to preach there broke out a spontaneous standing ovation by the congregation, a congregation made up of 50% young adults who had been under my youth ministry.

After service that morning again and again my children who were standing next to me would here people come up and speak about the impact I had on their lives for Christ**all because of the love I had for young people and therefore what I did wasn't a job, I didn't complain about the long hours - I was happy to give them for it was my**

love and passion to serve these young people and to impart Christ into their lives.

It was my attitude and love that changed a job into a ministry ... a service into a ministry to them.

The fourth component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#4. The "Measure" of ministry is sacrifice.

It was John Henry Jowett who said, "Ministry that costs nothing accomplishes nothing."

For anything to be considered "ministry" there must be a noticeably higher degree of sacrifice than is expected from others.

When was the last time you were challenged to sacrifice anything for the cause of Christ? **What have you sacrificed to be in ministry?**

Are you aware that new and deeper degrees of sacrifice may be needed in order for you to go further in ministry than you have today? **Many of us want ministry without sacrifice. We want to add ministry to what we do without removing something else - it cannot be done.**

Let's take a moment for us to examine ourselves and answer the hard question - "what have I actually sacrificed in order to do the ministry I am currently carrying out or the ministry I'm preparing to leave this college to go do?"

Sacrificial ministry is merely our following in the footsteps of Christ, who went before us and led the way -- a way which passed by the steep grade of Calvary's hill, where He was "to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark10:45b).

Sacrifice! That's the measurement against which all ministries must be judged. That is the standard set by the Master.

Where your sacrifice is ... there your ministry will be! And the degree of your sacrifice will determine the depth of your ministry.

The fifth component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#5. "Authority" in ministry is based upon submission.

People who **command** authority have no right to do so until they have learned to **submit** to authority.

Often a person loves the idea of ministering because it's a way to get attention, prestige, and to exercise authority over others. But these are wrong reasons for any ministry. The source of these things is our pride. And nothing can destroy a ministry faster than pride or wrong motives.

We spend a lot of energy, time reading various books and listening to tapes, as well as money in search of a formula for successful ministry. No one wants to be a failure - whether that is a failure as a S.S teacher, Youth Leader, Church Leader, or Pastor.

However, all our conferences, books, tapes will not help us be "successful" if we don't understand that our "success" depends upon a key often overlooked -- the "authority" we are granted by God.

And this "authority" is dependent upon our submission first to Christ then to others – particularly church leaders He has put in place!

There are three passages of Scriptures I want us to look at:

1st Let's take a look at Mk 8:5-13. This is the record of Jesus' encounter with the Roman Centurion. Jesus was astonished because a non-Jew understood so clearly what the children of God should have, but didn't –

That any "authority" and therefore "power" is dependent upon being under submission. Christ had authority and therefore power because He was under authority and the Centurion recognized it and understood it.

2nd Let's take a look at John 5:19, 30. In these two verses Jesus declared Himself to be under the Father's authority.

John 5:19 - **"Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.**

John 5:30 - **"By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me."**

3rd Now take a look at Luke 2:39-52. Here we see this submission practiced by Jesus as a child and into His teen years towards His earthly parents who were not infallible, or always correct; who sometimes wanted Him to do what they wanted, when they wanted it, and how they wanted it – it's called parenting. **His earthly parents didn't need to be perfect to be followed or obeyed.**

The same goes for our earthly leaders and our submission. If we know our leader is a man after God's own heart and exemplifies the character of Christ we can trust that God will be with him even if his decision regarding an issue we think is seriously flawed.

The only exception to this would be if what the leader is asking to be done or the reasons he is asking for it to be done is immoral, unethical, or goes in any form contrary to the letter or the spirit of God's written word.

The sixth component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#6. The "Purpose" of ministry is to glorify God.

God's glory is the one thing He reserves for Himself, and only Himself. He refuses to share it with anyone or anything, including his servants.

"I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images." (Isa.42:8)

If glorifying God is the chief aim of your ministry then you have all the needed motivation to become the best you can be in that ministry. **This will mean that ...**

- You will refuse the encroachments of mediocrity and slackness in the performance of your ministry.
- You will not allow the lack of training to stand in your way; you will find out how and where you can be trained.
- You will accept the premise that sacrifices are necessary for any ministry to be done; the greater the ministry, the greater the sacrifice required.
- You will develop intimacy with God and dependency upon God as integral elements of your capacity for being faithful to God. Your understandings, often so important to us, will neither stand in the way of nor define for you your faithfulness to God and what He has indicated to you He requires of you.
- You will do the ministry in a manner worthy of bearing the name of Jesus and worthy of His visitation.

The seventh component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#7. The "Tools" of the ministry are prayer and Scripture declaration.

Look at Acts 6:4, a verse worth frequent review -- **"But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word."**

Both actions are important. If we have only Bible study and no prayer, **we wind up with light -- but no heat.** If we have only prayer and no Bible study, **we have heat -- but no light.**

We need the **"light"** of His word in our minds and the **"heat"** of His passion to carry out His work, His way.

The importance of these **"tools"**, as well as the importance of keeping them sharpened within our lives, can be seen by the following 2 Scripture passages:

1. **Acts 6:1-4** -- The disciples, who are now becoming Apostles of the Church, refocus their primary task and the "tools" they need to hone upon prayer and the study of the Scriptures. **The point is you have nothing to say if you don't know what it is you're talking about!**

2. **Romans 10:2- 4** – Although the efforts of these individuals were well intended they failed because they lacked the necessary "tools" of prayer and study - **they were zealous but without wisdom!**
Something apparently God doesn't need!

The eighth component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#8. The "Power" of ministry is the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps the most overlooked source of power in a church is the Holy Spirit.

A.W.Tozer once said that if the Lord removed the Holy Spirit from this world, much of what we are doing in the church would continue and nobody would even know the difference.

What a sad commentary on our reliance on programs instead of the dynamic power of the Spirit.

Are the programs you are running in your ministry Spirit birthed? Spirit filled? And Spirit lead?

Zechariah's words are as true today as the day he penned them: **"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit"** (Zech.4:6b). The Living Bible Paraphrase Translation goes on to say, **"You will succeed because of my Spirit."**

Let's take a few minutes to reflectively ask ourselves the question – "is what I'm giving myself to everyday Spirit birthed? Is it being driven by the Spirit and my yielding to His direction and promptings?"

If the answer is yes -- how do you know for sure? If not, then what can you do to shift and align yourself to be Spirit birthed, Spirit lead, and Spirit filled?

Now don't be too quick to answer this question. Let me first correct some of our faulty thinking about being Spirit birthed, Spirit lead, and Spirit filled.

Being Spirit birthed, Spirit lead, and Spirit filled **doesn't imply a wishy-washy, living by the moment, undisciplined, unaccountable to others, free-lancing, do whatever I feel like at the moment approach to life, work, or ministry.**

On the contrary, the fruit of the Spirit according to Galatians 5:22-23 is self-control or self-discipline and a hardworking, determined, lifestyle that produces results when others don't!

According to Scriptures Spirit birthed, Spirit lead, and Spirit filled should result in greater accountability, greater disciplined lifestyles, going the extra mile in all things without even feeling as if you went the extra mile, and living under submission to those placed over you by the Lord.

The ninth component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#9. The "Model" for ministry is Jesus Christ.

Many people model a ministry after a leader. They see someone being "successful" and they try and replicate that success by emulating the leader.

Christ is our only model for effective ministry and His model was serving others for God's purposes in their lives.

The tenth component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#10. Our Effectiveness - our ability to influence others for Christ - is based upon godly character.

The degree of our effectiveness in ministry is directly proportionate to the depth of Christ's character in us.

In summary I'll repeat these 10 components of Authentic Ministry – 10 things which make what I do a ministry:

1. "Intimacy" with God is the foundation – **how's your intimacy these days?"**
2. The "nature" of ministry is service – **"how' is it you are serving the needs of someone else by what you are doing?"**
3. The motive of ministry is "love" – **"do the individuals you claim to serve genuinely believe you love them?"**
4. The measure of ministry is "sacrifice" – **what are you sacrificing to do this ministry?"**
5. "Authority" in ministry is based upon your submission to others – **"are you in submission to your leaders in your words, your behavior, and your attitudes?"**
6. The "purpose" of ministry is to glorify God – **"how does God get glory from what you're doing?"**
7. The "tools" of ministry are prayer & study of the word – **"are you really devoting the required time to prayer & study of the Word in order to be effective?"**
8. The "power" in ministry is the Holy Spirit – **"the programs you're running are they Spirit-birthed, Spirit-led, Spirit-filled?"**
9. The "model" for ministry is Jesus Christ – **"can people see the nature and character of Jesus in the way you conduct yourself and your ministry?"**
10. Our "effectiveness" is based on character – **"are we relying on our programs or our love to draw people to Christ and change them?"**

Now that we have the 10 Components of Authentic Ministry I want to take a moment to look at 7 common barriers to fruitfulness in ministry.

Seven Barriers to Fruitful Ministry:

The first barrier to fruitful ministry is ...

1. We love our life too much -- the Demas factor (2 Tim. 4:10)

- We fail to take opportunities God gives because we cherish our life and desire to protect ourselves from rejection or from injury.
- Often we don't want to get too deeply involved in ministry or others lives because it will take time from what we want to do and from our times of leisure.

The second barrier to fruitful ministry is ...

2. We fear failure

- We fear not succeeding.
- We fear not reaching our (not God's) expectations.
- We fear looking inferior or as if we lack something in front of others.

These fears create an anxiety about life and ministry. And we find that the greatest deterrent to fruitful ministry is human anxiety.

Yet, the promise of Christ is that if we abide in Him we will not experience failure -- failure as Christ defines it not the same as our society does.

The third barrier to fruitful ministry is ...

3. We are not working in the areas we are gifted for -- We each have a certain God given gifting and therefore an **aptitude for a particular work.**

We must learn to avoid comparisons and value placements -- placing more importance on one gift than the others. Labor in the field God has called you.

We sometimes fail because we're working in a ministry God has not called us

The fourth barrier to fruitful ministry is ...

4. We are waiting to discover our gifts before getting involved.

Just what do we mean by "discovering" our gifts? Are they lost? Are they buried treasure? Am I waiting to be surprised by them?

We "discover" our gifting only by our active involvement in some form of ministry. Our gifting is supposed to be others-centered. Sadly, much of our attention and confusion surrounding gifting is because the focus is on us.

We have no problem finding people who claim to have gifts of prophecy, healing, preaching or teaching, we have an abundance of those who claim they are evangelists, or possess the gift of a Word of Knowledge or Wisdom. As a matter of fact we have people popping out of the woodwork claiming these gifts.

However, when was the last time you had someone say to you they had ...

- **The gift of celibacy** (1 Cor. 7:7)
- **The gift of helps:** People who possess this gift are involved in doing the most menial chores which largely go unnoticed & unappreciated by those you are doing it for. It takes a specially gifted individual to serve with this gifting because societies prejudices are against our serving; society and my sinful nature tell me I deserve to be served, that serving is beneath me.
- **The gift of giving** and they have chosen to exercise that gift by living on a smaller paycheck so they can give so much more of it away to others? **(We think the only people who can have this gift are rich Christians -- that's an assumption, not the truth).**

The fifth barrier to fruitful ministry is ...

5. We feel inadequate. Most people feel inadequate when it comes to their performance in ministry. The reason is they compare themselves with others God is using in more dramatic ways.

Maintaining a proper balance about what we can or cannot do is important.

However, what we need to see is that we have been called into partnership with Christ for the accomplishment of His purposes in the lives of those we are ministering to. He obviously feels we are capable for He called us into His service. And besides we have the Scripture which outfits us with the proper attitude in Phil. 4:13

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

Yes, it is true we accomplish everything because of Christ in us, but it is also true that Christ expects us to work and to work hard!

The sixth barrier to fruitful ministry is ...

6. We do not see ourselves as Christ sees us. Whereas identity is who you are, self image is how you see yourself. These are not necessarily the same in our mind.

How you see yourself (your self-image) will tend to have a greater impact upon your ministry and effect your decisions regarding what you do or don't do than your identity does.

The seventh and last barrier to fruitful ministry is ...

7. We stop growing, changing, and maturing as a Christian believing that yesterdays anointing will carry us on through today's challenges.

The landscape of the Church is littered with the memories of great men and women, once used of God, who stopped growing, changing, and maturing and then found themselves standing on the outside of ministry, often with their lives shipwrecked upon the hard realities of life.

Working Towards Authentic Ministry

A Definition of ministry -- ministry is service done **for** God, **to** others, **with** God's purposes and aims **for them** in mind.

Ten Components of Authentic Ministry

#1. The "Foundation" of ministry is intimacy with God as both the Father and Lord of our lives.

Two things you must understand about intimacy as the foundation of ministry:

a). **Intimacy with God is the prerequisite to any ministry and is the essential quality that makes something a ministry.**

Beware of any work for God that enables you to evade concentration on Him.

b). **It is our intimacy with God that transforms the mundane, average, and insignificant into a service of heavenly importance.**

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It takes all of God's power in us to do the most menial & commonplace things for others, in His way.

Greatness in the kingdom of God is not measured by how high you rise but by how low you stoop

Luke 21:1 – 4

Luke 19:11 – 27

Ephesians 6:5 – 9

Colossians 3:22 – 4:1

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3 principles Christ has in mind when He says, "Now that you know these things" (John 13:1 – 17)

(1) Christians must be willing to do the most menial work in service to one another -- Church leaders must set the example for this by modeling to those they lead.

(2) You cannot expect to do ministry, in particular church leadership, any differently than the model set down by Christ.

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#3. The "Motive" for ministry is love.

The fourth component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#4. The "Measure" of ministry is sacrifice.

"Ministry that costs nothing accomplishes nothing." (John Henry Jowett)

Where your sacrifice is ... there your ministry will be!

The degree of your sacrifice will determine the depth of your ministry.

The fifth component of Authentic Ministry is ...

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People who command authority have no right to do so until they have learned to submit to authority.

The sixth component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#6. The "Purpose" of ministry is to glorify God.

If glorifying God is the chief aim of your ministry then you have all the needed motivation to become the best you can be in that ministry. This will mean that ...

- **You will refuse the encroachments of mediocrity and slackness in the performance of your ministry.**

- You will not allow the lack of training to stand in your way; you will find out how and where you can be trained.
- You will accept the premise that sacrifices are necessary for any ministry to be done; the greater the ministry, the greater the sacrifice required.
- You will do the ministry in a manner worthy of bearing the name of Jesus and worthy of His visitation.

The seventh component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#7. The "Tools" of the ministry are prayer and Scripture declaration.

If we have only Bible study and no prayer, **we wind up with light -- but no heat**. If we have only prayer and no Bible study, **we have heat -- but no light**.

The eight component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#8. The "Power" of ministry is the Holy Spirit.

"If the Lord removed the Holy Spirit from this world, much of what we are doing in the church would continue and nobody would even know the difference". A.W.Tozer

The ninth component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#9. The "Model" for ministry is Jesus Christ.

The tenth component of Authentic Ministry is ...

#10. Our Effectiveness - our ability to influence others for Christ - is based upon godly character.

The degree of our effectiveness in ministry is directly proportionate to the depth of Christ's character in us.

Seven Barriers to Fruitful Ministry:

1. We love our life too much

2. We fear failure

3. We are not working in the areas we are gifted for.

We sometimes fail because we're working in a ministry God has not called us

4. We are waiting to discover our gifts before getting involved.

We "discover" our gifting only by active involvement in some form of ministry.

5. We feel inadequate.

6. We do not see ourselves as Christ sees us.

Whereas identity is who you are, self image is how you see yourself. These are not necessarily the same in our mind.

How you see yourself will tend to have a greater impact upon your ministry and effect your decisions, regarding what you do or don't do, than your identity does.

7. We stop growing, changing, and maturing as a Christian believing that yesterdays anointing will carry us on through today's challenges.