

Sunday, November 6, 2022

Ministry

Ephesians 4:11-16

Ministry. *"The best of times, the worst of times"* Charles Dickens

2022 study shows

- 4,000 new churches begin each year and 7,000 churches close.
- Over 1,500 pastors left the ministry every month last year.
- Over 1,300 pastors were terminated by the local church each month, many without cause.
- Over 3,500 people a day left the church last year.

All Christians are called to ministry.

The priesthood of old ended when the New Covenant began.

Priesthood of all believers

The doctrine of the priesthood of all believers states that all believers in Christ share in his priestly status; therefore, there is no special class of people who mediate the knowledge, presence, and forgiveness of Christ to the rest of believers, and all believers have the right and authority to read, interpret, and apply the teachings of Scripture.¹

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a

¹ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-priesthood-of-all-believers/>

spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5

What is ministry?

Ministry: to render assistance or help by performing certain duties, often of a humble or menial nature—'to serve'²

Read vs. 11-12 Your gift and calling is to work the ministry for the church!

He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13 The Message

Ministry Slide

Vs. 13a

When we see ourselves as ministers, the result is unity!

Vs. 13b

When we see ourselves as ministers, the result is maturity!

Vs. 14

When we see ourselves as ministers, the result is stability!

Vs. 15

When we see ourselves as ministers, the result is community!

Vs. 16

When we see ourselves as ministers, the result is build each other up in love!

Communion

² Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament

