

The Motivation for Ministry

Colossians 1:24-29

Introduction

If a believer is to have an eternal focus, that focus must involve a focus on ministry. Everything we do on earth counts for eternity. Ministry within the context of the body of Christ is an important way we maintain the correct perspective. Ministry prepares church members for the Judgment Seat of Christ – that time in which we are held accountable for our actions in time. As we prioritize ministry, believers in the body of Christ move toward spiritual maturity through mutual encouragement and fellowship with other mature believers. Discipleship is the process through which we as believers grow from one level to another and that process happens within the context of the church.

Christ did not just come to save us but also to indwell us. As the living Christ operates in our hearts, minds, and actions we are transformed. This biblical mystery is a spiritual truth that was concealed in the Old Testament and then revealed in the New Testament. We grow as we proclaim His Word, apply the Word and admonish one another to grow closer to Christ. Christ transforms us from the inside out, working in and through us so that we might experience His glory. The ministry of believers includes fellowship, accountability, and love and this sets a framework for the mystery of Christ to be experienced.

So how exactly do we experience ministry that both motivates us towards the eternal and allows us to experience the mystery of Christ in us? Each of us should make sure we are frequently hearing the truth of Christ and His Word proclaimed within the context of spiritual fellowship. We should also be willing to proclaim the truth of Christ to the people within our own circles of influence asking the Holy Spirit for guidance for how we apply that truth everyday. As we seek to know Him and share our growth in Him with others, we are changed.

Getting Started

1. Take a moment to reflect on the recent holiday season of Christmas and New Year's. Give your group an update on how this time of year was for you and the people with whom you shared those moments.
2. In our culture, the holidays tend to be a time focused on materialism where many traditions do not honor the birth of Christ at all. Do you think you were able to maintain an eternal perspective during the last few weeks? Why or why not?

Let's Get Personal

1. Do you think you live with an eternal focus? Explain your reason for your answer to your group.
2. In order to grow as a believer, there must be a focus on eternity as the primary reason for growing in Christ. Are you growing as a believer? In what ways? If you are not, explain why.
3. Are you spiritually impacting the life of another believer? Share how you are able to impact the life of others and how you know you have done so?
4. Do you feel that you are able to grow in your faith through close contact with others who are further along in their relationship with Christ? If so, how have you been able to make those connections? If not, why do you think forming those relationships has been challenging?

Take the Next Step

1. After hearing today's sermon, how would you define ministry? Based on the definitions shared in your group, evaluate whether or not you feel that you are a full participant in the kind of ministry that will keep you focused on the eternal.
2. The motivation for ministry is that we grow to be more like Christ, honor Him with our lives, and prepare for that time in eternity where we will rule with Him. Are you motivated to continue, start or do ministry differently? If so, how?
3. Want to dig deeper? Take a look at 1 Timothy 2:2; Hebrews 5:11-14; and 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:1-3

Renew Your Mind

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ."
Colossians 1:28
