

Class 202 – Leadership in the New Testament Church, Part 2

Session One Notes

He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the ewes heavy with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. (Psalm 78:70-72)

Guiding Principles In Discussing New Testament Church Leadership

- 1.** God has called the Church of Christ to proclaim His Son both to those who know Him and those who do not, so that we may “present every man perfect [mature or complete] in Christ Jesus.” (See Colossians 1:28.)
- 2.** This two-fold work of proclaiming Christ (the evangelism of the lost and the equipping of the saints) must be done in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in accordance with the commands of Scripture and Scriptural principles, rather than through the “arm of the flesh” or the reasoning of the carnal mind. (See Zech. 4:6b.)
- 3.** The Body of Christ is meant to grow through the contribution of every working relationship and every individual within the Body. (See Eph. 4:16.)
- 4.** God has specially called, graced and appointed certain ministries within the Church to equip her for ministry and to bring her to maturity in Christ: the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. (See Eph. 4 generally.)
- 5.** The testimony of the Scriptures, as well as other evidences such as the decay of our society and the sweeping moves of the Holy Spirit taking place in many places around the world, forces us to consider that the end of the age is near.

All these factors should inspire us to seek God’s enablement and work with a greater faith, zeal and sense of urgency than ever before.

The Purpose of the Fivefold Ministry in Ephesians 4:

Why is There a Fivefold Ministry to Begin With?

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ... (Eph. 4:12)

In nature, different creatures require different environmental conditions as well different environmental inputs such as light and food. Soil that helps one plant may kill another. If Christians (and the Church) are to do more than merely survive, what kind of soil and input do we need? What kind of ministry and "input" in the way of training and challenges will enable us to stand in the fullness of the call we have received? We know that God is a God of order. If Christ has given certain ministries to build the Church, and if God is a God of order and purpose, then we may also be sure that:

1. While the grace of Christ is expressed differently through each of His servants, each fivefold ministry function has a distinct grace and purpose which is necessary for the growth of individual believers. *Each one needs what all five provide.*
2. The nature of these ministries reveals God's priorities for the maturation of the saints. *Christ is clear about what Christians need in order to grow up.*
3. The nature of these ministries reveals God's priorities for ministry. *Christ is clear about what Christians need to be doing.*
4. The nature of these ministries reveals God's priorities for the edification of the entire household of God. *Christ is clear about what will build up the flock.*
5. Our ministries and priorities **may receive or may lack the endorsement** of the ascended Christ depending on whether they **follow His priorities.**

Priorities of the Fivefold Ministry

Each leadership ministry God gives is designed to not only minister to others according to the grace it has received, but also to replicate the grace and workings of God in others. God has ordered things such that everything reproduces after its own kind.

Apostolic priorities in ministry

Through apostolic ministry God desires to raise up a people who are not only being built according to the wisdom and plan of Christ but are learning how to build on the foundation of Christ within all the spheres God has appointed for their ministry.

Prophetic priorities in ministry

Through prophetic ministry God desires to raise up a people who not only receive revelation as a body and personally, but are learning to minister the heart of God to others.

Evangelistic priorities in ministry

Through evangelistic ministry God desires to raise up a people who are not only soundly converted from dead works to faith in the Living God, but are learning to make Christ known to the world.

Pastoral priorities in ministry

Through evangelistic ministry God desires to raise up a people who are not only being nurtured and shepherded, but learning to take on and exercise the shepherd heart of Christ for others within His Body.

Teaching priorities in ministry

Through teaching ministry God desires to raise up a people who are not only being instructed in Christ's Word and principles but are learning to instruct others.

The Skill of David's Hands

And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands - literally, "by the understanding of his hands" - as if the hand had been endued with intelligence. Compare Psa. 44:1 : "Which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight..." Save in the matter of Uriah - over which he afterward wept so bitterly - his administration was eminently just, pure, impartial, wise, and benignant; probably none among people have been more so. The whole psalm is thus a beautiful argument showing why the government had been transferred from Ephraim to Judah, and why it had been placed in the hands of David. (From Barnes's Commentary)

The Big Picture, or: Lessons from Lonely Hillside - what Shepherd-Leaders Provide

1. Spiritual food
 - a. The teaching of the Word
 - b. Revelation from God's mind
 - c. Godly wisdom and counsel
2. Still waters: a Kingdom atmosphere
 - a. love, joy, peace, godliness, order, worship, and honor
3. Care and restoration of the soul
4. Guidance in right living
 - a. Training in righteousness, character and love
 - b. Training in the move of the Spirit
 - c. Training and mentoring in ministry skills and issues
5. Protection
6. A vision for the People of God
7. A future for the People of God