

# The Priorities of God's People (John 13:1-17)

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>*

**REFLECTION:** The Great Priorities of God are reflected in the Priorities He's given His people. These can be summed up in the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. He desires and designs "all things" to "work together" to accomplish those purposes in and then through our lives. We've been focusing on these "Basic Purposes" that God has for each of us. The Great Commission involves:

- Evangelism: Each of us are Missionaries. (Mt. 4:19; 2 Cor 5:20)
- Fellowship: Fellowship = Partnership (1 Cor. 3)
- Discipleship: Making Deposits into the lives of others (John 15)

**The Great Commandment (Mt 22:37-39) involves Loving God and Loving others.  
The Great Commandment is the real motivation behind Ministry!**

1. **THE WHAT OF MINISTRY** (diakonia: service, aid, relief) *"Loving our neighbor as ourself"* should manifest itself through practical service. Such Service (Ministry) is:

A. Love in Action (Jn. 13:1-17)

B. Labor in Jesus' Name. (Mt. 25:40)

C. A Litmus test of our love. (1 Jn. 3:10-19)

2. **THE WHY OF MINISTRY.** (John 13:7, 13-16) **BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE!**

A. God's Love Is Practical. It Meets Us Where We Are. (*James 2:15,16*)

B. God's Love Is Personal. (*Matthew 25:35,36*)

C. God's Love Is Powerful. *"Faith, hope, charity... the greatest is charity (love)" 1 Cor 13:13*  
*John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*

3. **THE WHO OF MINISTRY.** Jn 13:13-17

A. God Decrees That Each Of Us Should become "ministers". Jn 13:14,15

Eph. 4:11-13 *"gave... pastors and teachers; for the perfecting (katartismos': complete repair, equipping) of the saints, (hagios: sacred, consecrated) for the work of the ministry. (ergon: {labor} diakoni'a {service}) for the edifying (oikodomē': building up) of the body of Christ..."* (See 1 Cor 12:27)  
*"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect (telios: mature) man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:..."* (See Ro. 8:29)

B. God Designs Each Of Us For Particular Service. (1 Peter 4:10)

*"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*

1) This is what the term "ACTIVE Member" is supposed to mean.

*Gallop poll: < 10 % of evangelical Christians are involved in any ministry.*

2) Not every member has the same gifts and opportunities. (see 1 Cor. 12)

*"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us" (Rom 12:6)*

#### 4. THE HOW OF MINISTRY.

A. UNDERSTAND THAT MINISTRY IS **MANDATORY!** (We're Saved to **Serve!**)

1) We will be evaluated in heaven based on our service on earth. (Mt. 25:13-30)

Vs 21 *"His lord said unto him, Well done, **thou good and faithful servant**: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."* (See also 2 Tim. 4:7,8)

B. Understand How God Has "**Shaped**" You For Service.

1) S...**Spiritual Gifts**. 1 Pt 4:10 *"As every man hath received **the gift** so minister the same..."*

char'isma: gratuity, endowment, qualification. From char'is: Grace! (See Phil. 2:13)

1 Cor 15:10 *"by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly...: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."*

2) H...**Heart** (Passion) Col 1:28-29 *"we preach, warning...and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."*

3) A...**Abilities**: Ex. 31:3 *"I have filled him (Bezaleel) with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship..."*

**Long before the moment of need, God had been preparing the man!**

4) P...**Personality**: (Temperament) 1 Cor 4:1-2 *"Let a man account of us as of the ministers of Christ, (Hypēret'ēs: under oarsman {see 1 Cor 3:9}) and stewards of the mysteries of God."*

*Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."*

1 Cor 4:7,8 *"For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that didst not receive?"*

5) E... **Experiences** Acts 18:3 *"because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers."*

Phil 1:12,13 *"But I would ye should understand, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places..."*

Paul's education/experiences enabled him to minister cross culturally!

Don't resist or resent your path / past; It's part of God's Process in writing your Story!

Use it For God's Glory!!!! Moses, Joseph, Paul, You and Me!

**Conclusion:** Ministry may be "Mandatory", but that doesn't mean it's Natural or Comfortable!  
The God who calls us will equip us; but we must cooperate with His process! (Mt 11:28,29; 1 Cor 3:9)

#### Application:

1) Take the time to **consider** how God has uniquely "Shaped" you.

*Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experiences*

2) **Consecrate** (dedicate) your "Shape" to His service! Ro 12:1-6...

3) **Cooperate** with God's processes to develop Your "Shape". (Mal. 3:17; Is. 64:8)

4) **Commit** to investing in others. 2 Tim. 2:1,2 *"be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me, the same **commit thou** (paratith'ēmi: deposit) to faithful men, (pistos: trustworthy) who shall be able to teach others also."*