THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION
Unless otherwise noted
all scripture references are from the New King James Version of the Bible

Adapted and Compiled By C. Pierce
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I. DEFINING MINISTRY

A. INTRODUCTION

The ministry in our day has taken on more of a vocational meaning as we call pastors "ministers" to full-time service. Pastors do spend their lives in the ministry, they do minister to others, and they can rightly be designated as ministers, but pastors are not the only ones who are to be involved in ministry. From the early New Testament churches to the churches of our day, each Christian should be in the ministry of helping others. (See Romans 12:3-8, 10-13; 2 Timothy 2:24-26) ¹

1. Romans 12:3-8, 10-13(KJV): “³For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ⁴For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; ⁷Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. ¹⁰Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; ¹¹Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; ¹²Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; ¹³Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

Soberly - not exaggerated or distorted

2. What has God dealt each one (Romans 12:3)?

a. THE _______________) OF FAITH

i. “the” measure of faith, not just “a” measure of faith

ii. God is no respecter of persons; he gives the same portion of faith to each person.

iii. The reason we do not see all men operating in faith is because not all have developed their initial portion of faith.

iv. Faith must be made to grow; it cannot be allowed to sit.
3. How are we not to think of ourselves (Romans 12:3)?
   a. _______________ HIGHLY THAN WE OUGHT TO THINK.
      i. We are not to be obsessed with status and honor.

4. How are we to think of ourselves (Romans 12:3)?
   a. _______________ - not exaggerated or distorted

5. What is the analogy (illustration) of the church in Romans 12:4-5?
   a. THE ANALOGY OF THE __________________    __________________
      i. Even though we have many different parts of our body (the heart, liver, arms, legs, eyes, etc.) it is still one body.
      ii. Each of the parts of the body works together to make the entire body healthy.
      iii. In the church, every individual is not only necessary in his place as an individual, but is needful to the proper functioning of the whole

6. In what way are the different gifts spread out among the members of the church (Romans 12:6)?
   a. ACCORDING TO THE _________ GIVEN US
      i. God’s grace deals out differing gifts to different people
      ii. God gives the necessary strength or ability to use whatever gifts we have
      iii. We are responsible to use these god-given abilities as good stewards

7. List the different gifts mentioned in Romans 12:6-8, and describe the way we are to use it.
   a. (V.6)___________________________ - means to predict future events,
i. but it also means to declare the divine will;

ii. to interpret the purposes of God;

iii. or to make known in any way the truth of God, which is designed to influence men

b. (V.7) ___________________________ – SERVICE OF ANY KIND;

i. It relates to tasks undertaken to build up the community and also to support for those tasks;

ii. involves engagement of the heart

1) ___________ ON OUR MINISTERING:

   a) WAIT: to stay in place in expectation of;
   b) to be available or in readiness

2) Be available and ready for ministry (to serve)

c. (V.7) ___________________________ - instruct, or communicate knowledge

d. (V.8) HE THAT ___________________________ –

i. exhort - to encourage, strengthen;

   1) TO URGE, ADVISE, OR CAUTION EARNESTLY;

ii. One who urges to the practical duties of Christianity;

iii. One who presents the warnings and the promises of God, to excite men to the discharge of their duty.

e. (V.8) ___________________________ - The word denotes the person whose office it was to distribute;

i. Probably designates him who distributed the alms of the church, or him who was the deacon of the congregation.

ii. The word rendered giveth may denote one who imparts or distributes that which has been committed to him for that purpose, as well as one who gives out of his private property
iii. WITH SIMPLICITY - honesty of aim, purity, integrity, without any mixture of a base, selfish, or sinister end.

1) It requires the bestowment of a favor without seeking any personal or selfish ends;
2) Without partiality; but actuated only by the desire to bestow them in the best possible manner to promote the object for which they were given

f. (V.8) HE THAT __________________ - one who is set over others, or who presides or rules, or to have the management of

i. WITH DILIGENCE - be attentive to the duties, and engage with earnestness in that which was committed to be done

g. (V.8) HE THAT SHOWS__________ - refers to those who had the care of the sick and infirm, the aged and the needy; not so much to provide for them by charity, as to attend on them in their affliction, and to take care of them.

i. WITH CHEERFULNESS - It is to be done with cheerfulness, pleasantness, joy; with a kind, benign, and happy temper.

1) THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS DIRECTION TO THOSE IN THIS SITUATION IS APPARENT. NOTHING TENDS SO MUCH TO ENHANCE THE VALUE OF PERSONAL ATTENDANCE ON THE SICK AND AFFLICTED, AS A KIND AND CHEERFUL TEMPER. IF ANYWHERE A MILD, AMIABLE, CHEERFUL, AND PATIENT DISPOSITION IS NEEDED, IT IS NEAR A SICK BED, AND WHEN ADMINISTERING TO THE WANTS OF THOSE WHO ARE IN AFFLICTION.

8. List at least two changes you desire to take place in your life because of these verses:
   a. ________________________________
   b. ________________________________

9. What are two ways that Paul describes a Christian’s love in Romans 12:10?

   a. KINDLY – __________________ - denotes tender affection, such as that which exists between parents and children; and it means that Christians should have similar feelings towards each other, as belonging to the same family, and as united in the same principles and interests.
b. **IN** ____________________, -in showing or manifesting respect or honor. Not in seeking honor, or striving after respect, but in showing it to one another.

i. **PREFERRING ONE ANOTHER** - The word preferring - means going before, leading, setting an example. Thus in showing mutual respect and honour, they were to strive to excel; not to see who could obtain most honor, but who could confer the most, or manifest the most respect.

10. List the counsel Paul gives in Romans 12:11-13 for our spiritual lives? Circle the ones that you consider to be ‘difficult’ to carry out consistently.

   a) **NOT** __________________ - slow, idle, destitute (lacking) of promptness of mind and activity

      **in business** - diligently occupied in that which we may have to do; to be faithful and industrious in the discharge of all appropriate duties.

   b) ___________________ **IN SPIRIT** – intense and earnest in mind and heart

   c) ___________________ **THE LORD** - Regarding ourselves as the servants of the Lord obeying His commands and promoting His glory

   d) **REJOICING IN** _____________ - the hope of eternal life and glory which the gospel produces

   e) ___________________ **IN TRIBULATION** - In affliction patiently enduring all that may be appointed. Christians may be 'enabled to do this by the sustaining influence of their hope of future glory

   f) **CONTINUING INSTANT IN** ______________ - be persevering in prayer; to persist in or remain constant to prayer in the face of obstacles or discouragement

   g) ___________________ **TO THE NECESSITY OF THE SAINTS** - distribute to them such things as they need, food, raiment, etc. (In the earliest times of the church, Christians had all things in common)

   h) **GIVEN TO** ___________________ - This expression means that they should readily and cheerfully entertain strangers.

      This is duty which is frequently mentioned in the Scriptures.
i. (Heb. 13: 2), "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby many have entertained angels unawares."

ii. (1 Pet. 4: 9), "Use hospitality one to another without grudging." Paul makes this especially the duty of a Christian bishop.

iii. (1 Tim. 3: 2), "A bishop then must...be given to hospitality."

iv. (Titus 1: 8). Hospitality is mentioned by the Savior, and its exercise commanded.

v. (Matt. 10: 40. 42), "He that receiveth you receiveth me;"

vi. (Matt. 25:. 43), "I was a stranger, and ye took me not in."

vii. It is especially commended to us by the example of Abraham (Gen. 18: 1—8), and of Lot (Gen. 19: 12), who thus received angels unawares.

viii. It was one of the virtues on which Job particularly commended himself, and which he had not failed to practice. Job 31: 16, 17, "If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail; or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof;"

[http://books.google.com/books?id=JEqFpa7IrYYC&pg=PA273&lpg=PA263&ots=IBWolzwwuw&dq=let+us+wait+on+our+ministering&output=text#c_top]

11. 2 Timothy 2:24-26: "24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will."

12. What must the Lord’s servant do and not do?

   a. MUST NOT __________________________
   b. BE _______________________ TO ALL
   c. ABLE TO _________________________
   d. BE _____________________________
   e. IN ______________________________ CORRECTING THOSE WHO ARE IN OPPOSITION

i. Although the Lord’s servant must contend for the truth, yet he must not be contentious or argumentative. Rather, he must gentle to all and approach men with the purpose of instructing them rather than winning an argument.
ii. He must be **patient** with those who are slow to understand and even with those who do not seem disposed to accept the truth of God’s word.

13. What is the purpose of the kind and gentle approach?

   a. THAT THE ____________________ MAY COME TO THEIR SENSES
   b. THAT THEY MAY ESCAPE THE _______________________OF THE DEVIL, HAVING BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE BY HIM TO DO HIS WILL

II. WHAT IS MINISTRY? ²

   A. DEFINITION: (Greek "diakonos" - "to serve")

   "MINISTRY IS USING WHATEVER GOD HAS GIVEN ME TO SERVE HIM AND THE NEEDS OF OTHERS"

   B. WE MINISTER IN 3 DIRECTIONS

   a. To God Through Worship
   b. To Other Believers Through Serving
   c. To unbelievers Through Witnessing

   C. We Minister to God Through Worship

   Acts 13:2: “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

   1. Praise and Worship are expressed ways for us to minister to the Lord

     a. Worshipping God means giving your devotion to Him.
     b. You give God honor
     c. You adore God more than any other.
     d. Sometimes we worship God alone.
     e. Sometimes we worship God with others.

   2. John 4:23 tells us the Father is seeking worshippers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth.

   3. Twelve Expressions of Praise and Worship

     a. **Worship can be expressed in silence.** We are challenged in scripture, “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalms 46:10). There are times when it is appropriate to worship God in silence. There is something about being completely still and calm before the
Lord. At such times, you will often feel a sense of awe in His presence.

1) Psalm 4:4: “Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.”
2) Isaiah 30:15: “. . . In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.”
3) Ecclesiastes 3:7: “A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;”

b. Worship can be expressed with the Spoken Voice

1) Speaking
   Psalm 34:1 says, “I will bless the LORD at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

2) Shouting
   Psalm 27:6 (NIV) says, “Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts will sing and make music to the Lord.”

3) Singing
   Psalm 47:6 says, “Sing praises to God, sing praises to our King, sing praises.”

c. Worship can be expressed with our Posture

1) Bowing
   Psalm 95:6 says, “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

2) Lying prostrate to the ground
   a. Nehemiah 8:6b says, “And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.”
   b. 1 Chronicles 29:20 says, “Then David said to all the assembly, “Now bless the LORD your God.” So all the assembly blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the LORD and the king.”
3) Kneeling
Daniel 6:10 says, “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.”

4) Standing
a. Exodus 33:10 (NIV) says, “Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to his tent.”

b. 2 Chronicles 20:19 says, “Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.”

c. Revelation 7:9, 10 says, “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

5) Dancing
Psalm 149:3 says, “Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.”

d. Worship can be expressed with our Hands

1) Playing Instruments
Psalm 33:2, 3 says, “Praise the LORD with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.”

2) Clapping
Psalm 47:1 says, “Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!”
3) Lifting Hands
   a. Nehemiah 8:6a says, “And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, “Amen, Amen!” while lifting up their hands.”
   b. Psalm 63:4 says, “I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.”
   c. 1 Timothy 2:8 says, “I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands,”

4. The Greek definition of “ministry” is to __________________________

5. Ministry is __________________________
   __________________________
   __________________________
   __________________________

6. According to John 4:23 the Father is seeking __________________________
   __________________________
   __________________________
   __________________________

7. What are four different ways worship can be expressed?
   a. __________________________
   b. __________________________
   c. __________________________
   d. __________________________

D. We Minister To other believers through serving

Hebrews 6:10: “For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

1. Two of the things that accompany salvation were manifest in the lives of the saints
   i. Their work and
   ii. Their labor of love.

2. Their faith manifested itself in a life of good works, and they had the hallmark of true Christianity – active love for the household of faith.

3. They continued to serve the Lord’s people for His sake. (Believer’s Bible Commentary, p.2178)

4. We have the same Father. And our Father has drawn us together in one family. Ephesians 2:19b (NLT): “... You are members of God’s family.”
5. Galatians 6:10: “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
   i. We are instructed to do good to all people as we have opportunity.
   ii. Our kindness is not to be limited to believers, but is to be shown to them in a special way.
   iii. Christians have a particular sense of responsibility to those with whom they are united in the Body of Christ, with whom they are "one in Christ;" in the same spiritual family.

6. We need support to grow spiritually.
   i. We cannot grow healthily alone. We need each other.
   ii. Hebrews 10:24 (NLT): “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.”
   iii. One of the things we need to do as brothers and sisters in Christ is to think in terms of, what can I do, what can I say to encourage you to do the things that are pleasing to God.
   iv. I need your relationship to me to encourage me in my walk with the Lord.
   v. 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT): “God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”

7. There are at least 58 times in which the concept “one another” is used in the New Testament. Here is a partial list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The “One Anothers” of Fellowship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Serve one another</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galatians 5:13</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Be devoted to one another</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romans 12:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Accept one another</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romans 15:7</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Honor one another</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romans 12:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Forgive one another</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colossians 3:13</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Teach one another</td>
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<td>Romans 15:14</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Greet one another</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romans 16:16</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Submit to one another</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ephesians 5:21</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Bear one another’s burdens</td>
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<td>Galatians 2:6</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Encourage one another</td>
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<td>1 Thessalonians 5:11</td>
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8. According to Hebrews 6:10, what are two of the things that accompany salvation that were manifest in the lives of the saints?
   
a. 
   b. 
9. According to Galatians 6:10, we are instructed to do good to all people as
___________________________________________________________

10. According to Hebrews 10:24 (NLT), we are to motivate one another to
___________________________________________________________

11. According to 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT), how are we to use our spiritual gifts?
___________________________________________________________

E. We Minister To unbelievers Through witnessing

Matthew 5:13: "13 You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are

1) Jesus likened His disciples to salt.

a. They were to the world what salt is in everyday life: salt seasons food; it hinders the spread of corruption; it creates thirst; it brings out the flavor. (Believer’s Bible Commentary, p.1217)

b. If you put salt on meat, it can be kept for months without refrigeration and it will not spoil.

c. The world is like meat. It is decaying. There is evil in the world. Men disobey God. They become spiritually decayed, like bad meat. Again and again the Jewish nation disobeyed God, and God sent prophets to call the Jews to repentance. The prophets were like salt. The people who heeded their words were purified and cleansed. We Christians are called to be salt, like the prophets of the Old Testament.

Note: The Old Testament prophets didn’t only predict the future. They also spoke God’s words to the Jewish people. They acted as God’s mouthpiece; through them God gave His commands and warnings to the people. Thus, in the Bible the word “prophet” means much more than just a “teller of the future.”
d. Salt has another quality: it is very salty. A tiny pinch of salt has a big effect. A little pinch of salt can make a large amount of water salty. Salt makes a difference. Salt is effective.
e. We Christians must be like salt we must make a difference in the world. We must change the “taste” or “flavor” of the world, just as salt changes the taste (flavor) of the water. If we lose our taste (flavor), we are worthless.

2. Christians are also the light of the world.

a. It is the Holy Spirit in us that gives light; the light is Christ’s light, not our own.
b. The world is in darkness, the darkness of sin, ignorance, and separation from God. We, too, were once darkness, but now are light (Ephesians 5:8; Philippians 2:15)
c. We are lights to show men and women the way to God, the way to salvation. We shine forth our light by our witness, by our example, both in word and deed. (The Amplified New Testament Commentary, pp.165-166)
d. The Christian is like a city that is set on a hill: it is elevated above its surroundings and it shines in the midst of darkness. Those whose lives exhibit the traits of Christ’s teaching cannot be hidden.
e. People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on a lampstand so that it will give light to all who are in the house. Jesus did not intend that we hoard the light of His teaching for ourselves, but that we share it with others. The witness of lives in which Christ is seen speaks louder than the persuasion of words. (Believer’s Bible Commentary, p.1218)

References:
http://www.bayleaf.org/jmeyer/SpiritualHabit_Fellowship.pdf

3. How Christians are like salt?
   a. __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________________________

4. How are Christians like light? _________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
F. WE MINISTER TO 3 AREAS OF NEEDS.

1. To People’s Physical Needs
2. To people’s Emotional Needs
3. To people’s Spiritual Needs

G. We minister to People’s Physical Needs

Matthew 25:35-36, 40: “(God says) [35] for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; [36] I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ . . . inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me”

Matthew 10:42 (LB): “If, as my representative, you give even a cup of cold water to a little child, you will surely be rewarded.”

1) The example of Peter and John’s ministry meeting the needs of the crippled man, Acts 3:1-8.

a. They were on their way (Acts 3:1). This ministry occurred during the normal daily routine as they went about their activities.

b. They encountered a crippled man (Acts 3:2). They used the opportunity to demonstrate the glory of God. When we ask God to open our eyes to see our “thems” we will see people with all kinds of needs. Our responsibility is to see these people through Christ’s eyes, not ours because He can see people for what they can become with the Gospel applied to their lives. Without this kind of sight we will have a tendency to see people as they are and feel sorry for them or determine the impossibility of their ever becoming anything but the pathetic creatures that we see.

c. The man asked for money (Acts 3:3). He did not realize the possibilities of what could be asked for. He did not understand his greater need was about to be met. Many times people ask God for one thing when they really need something else. We must remain sensitive to their real needs while also responding to their “felt” needs, whatever these may be.

d. Peter and John responded to the man from the resources they had, not from what they did not have. (Acts 3:6b-7). Peter admitted that they had no money, but they did have a much greater resource from which to draw, the power of God to heal him. It is also important that Peter asked the man to look at them. Just as we must ask for
God’s help to see the people around us through His eyes, we must also ask these people to see us for what we are – someone genuinely interested in helping meet their felt and real needs.

e. The man was healed (Acts 3:6b-7). The healing was done in such a way to give glory to God, not Peter. Peter met this man at the point of his felt need – a need for healing. Through the power of God this need was met but Peter didn’t stop there. He also addressed the man’s spiritual needs.

f. The man’s spiritual needs were also met (Acts 3:8). He went with Peter and John into the temple and joined them in praising God.


Note: Be cautious in ministering to others.

Anyone who takes seriously the idea of ministering to those in need must always keep in mind that there are those well-schooled and practiced in the fine art of "milking the system." Our Lord has urged us to be as "wise as serpents and as harmless as doves." There are those who have mixed their metaphors and become as crafty as snakes and as appealing as doves.

We do no one a favor when we allow ourselves to be conned. The alcoholic is certainly not benefited when he is able to trick some well-meaning do-gooder into giving him money to "buy a meal." The "meal" usually turns into more of the same poison which may have already shattered the alcoholic’s home and is currently destroying his health. (http://www.lifeway.com/article/?id=150648)

g. Why do you think the beggar was at the temple gate?

________________________________________________________________________________________

h. What did the man ask Peter and John to give him? ______________________

i. Why didn’t Peter give the man money?

________________________________________________________________________________________

j. What was the first thing Peter gave the beggar?

________________________________________________________________________________________
k. As Christians today, how can we apply Acts 3:5-6?

H. We minister to people’s emotional needs

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (GN): "... Warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all."

1. The Top 10 Emotional Needs

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<td>2. Attention</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Appreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Affection</td>
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2. The woman at the well (John 4:1-30)
   a. Jesus was sensitive to her need. He knew that this woman was in trouble. The fact that she came to the well alone in the heat of the day was saying that. He sensed the kind of life she lived and knew that she was hurting, that underneath her brave exterior and good looks was a frightened and lonely woman. Her felt need was emotional. She needed understanding and acceptance.
   b. Psychologists say that every life a person touches he either builds a bridge to that person or a wall between them.
   c. And Jesus, being a great bridge builder, bridged the great social gap between them by simply asking, “Please give me a drink.”
   d. This was the beginning of quite an interesting conversation. Following a brief discussion about living water, Jesus put His finger on both the need and problem area of her life. Without judging her in any way He told her that He knew she was living with a man who wasn’t her husband and that she had already had five husbands. “You have to be a prophet,” she exclaimed and then turned the conversation to spiritual things herself.
   e. Jesus knew this woman’s deepest need – her need for acceptance – and when He met it she believed in Him and automatically became a most enthusiastic witness.

   a. He was a tax gatherer and, as such, was despised by the people. In a sense he was an upper-class social outcast.
b. When Jesus met his felt need, Zacchaeus, of his own initiative, confessed his sin and promised to make restitution to all he had cheated.

4. The Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8:1-11)

a. Counselors tell us that a prostitute, for example, is a woman who has been hurt deeply by her father – perhaps by her mother too, but mostly by her father. She is very hostile towards him. He didn’t meet her needs for love; acceptance, and approval. Neither did he confirm her womanhood.

For one or many reasons she felt rejected by him. She doesn’t come to this conclusion consciously, but the greatest way she can get back at her father is by becoming a prostitute.

She is also desperately searching for the father’s love she never received as a child or as a young woman and is unconsciously trying to prove to herself that she is a woman. She is being driven into acts of sin because of unresolved hurt, anger and by an unmet need for love and acceptance.

b. The same principle applies to the man who is running around using women. His problem includes lust, but it goes far deeper. He is not the great masculine figure he thinks he is. He may be angry at his mother and be using other women as a means of expressing his hostility. Or he may be still searching for the mother’s love and acceptance he never received as a child as well as trying to convince himself that he is adequate as a male.

c. Behind all external acts of sin, there is almost always a deeper sin, fault, unmet need, or damaged emotion. In other words, all behavior is caused or motivated. There is a reason why people do what they do. This is not to excuse their behavior. Not at all. Jesus didn’t condemn the woman for her sin, but neither did He condone her actions. He told her not to do it again. However, He knew that this woman had a deep emotional need in her life and it was this unmet need that was driving her into acts of sin.

( http://www.InternetEvangelismDay.com/jesus-communicator.php#ixzz1HuVofxNs)

The emotionally wounded need for the body of Christ to be a place of love, acceptance, encouragement, forgiveness, and compassion.
I. We minister to people’s spiritual needs

2 Corinthians 5:18: “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,”

Colossians 1:28, 29: “Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”

1. Many people do not appreciate the salvation Jesus offers because they do not realize they need it. We are all born sinners (spiritually dead). Through Jesus Christ are sins are forgiven and our punishment taken away. We are to warn the unsaved of the awful wrath to come.

2. **Spiritual death is separation from God.**

3. **Scripture says that we are born sinners and that we are by nature sinners.**
   a. Psalm 51:5 is a very clear statement that we all come into the world as sinners: “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.”
   b. Ephesians 2:2 says that all people who are not in Christ are "sons of disobedience." Being a son of something involves being born with its traits. For example, just as Bill Clinton was born with the traits of the Clinton family, so also all humans are born with the trait of disobedience.
   c. Ephesians 2:3 also establishes this, saying that we are all "by nature children of wrath." We are all "by nature children of wrath" because we are all by nature sinners--for God's wrath is not on a person unless they are a sinner and deserve that wrath. And since we are sinners by nature, we see that sin is
not just something you do, it is something you are. Thus, Adam and Eve were originally created morally good, but because of their sin moral goodness vanished from the human heart and all of their descendants are thus born with a sinful nature.

d. When Adam and Eve become sinners, they could only give birth to more sinners? Why? Because God has established things such that things reproduce after their kind.

e. Job 14:4 says "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one! So because Adam and Eve became sinners, all of their descendants are a sinner (which is the whole human race) because unclean people cannot produce clean people, but only more uncleanness.
III. THE PURPOSE OF MINISTRY

"There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church. All of us together are the one Body of Christ and each one us is a separate and necessary part of it."4

a) Exalt the Savior
   i. Exalt - To elevate in estimation and praise; to magnify; to praise
   ii. Psalm 46:10: “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”
   iii. Psalm 18:46: “The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.”
   iv. Psalm 99:5: “Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His footstool— He is holy.”

b) Equip the Saint
   i. Equip - To supply with necessities such as tools or provisions.
      - To furnish with the qualities necessary for performance
   ii. Ephesians 4:11-13:
      11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
      12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
      13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

c) Evangelize the Sinner
   i. Evangelize – The proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ to lost sinners in order that they might turn to Him in faith and be saved.
   ii. Mark 16:15-16
      “And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
   iii. Matthew 28:18-20
      Jesus said, “. . . All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

iv. Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

d) GOD WANTS TO USE ME TO

i. Build up His body and

ii. Take advantage of every opportunity I have to share the gospel of Jesus Christ

IV. THE PRIORITY OF MINISTRY

(Why should I be interested?)

1. I’VE BEEN CREATED FOR MINISTRY!

Ephesians 2:10: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

a. I am God’s workmanship – a work in process
   i. Process - A series of actions, changes, or functions bringing about a result
b. Paul writes that we were created (past tense), but we are (present tense) God’s masterpiece.
c. The present tense in Greek indicates a continuing action. So literally we are and will continue to become God’s masterpiece.
d. As all of us are painfully aware, we don’t immediately become everything that God intends for us to be the very moment that He enters into our lives and makes us a new creation.
e. God allows us to go through a process, one that is often painful, so that He can mold us and make us into what He wants us to be.
f. Like a skillful artist, God sometimes completes us with a master stroke of his brush and at other times chisels away at our lives to get rid of those things that would detract from our beauty.
   (http://kevinmartineau.ca/sermon-synopsis-518-i-am-gods-workmanship)

g. While it is true that we are not saved by good works, it is equally true that we saved for good works. Good works are not the root but the fruit. We do not work in order to be saved, but because we are saved.
h. What kind of good works am I expected to do?

   i. “Good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

      1) God prepares us for good works

      2) God prepares good works for us to perform

2. I'VE BEEN SAVED FOR MINISTRY!

2 Timothy 1:9 (LB): ““It is He who saved us and chose us for his holy work, not because we deserved it but because that was his plan long before the world began...”

   a. God saved us
      i. He delivered us from the penalty of sin.
      ii. He constantly delivers us from the power of sin, and
      iii. In a day yet future, He will deliver us from the very presence of sin.

   b. God chose us for His holy work.
      i. He chose us long before the world began.
      ii. Before you and I were even conceived, before Adam was even formed, God by His grace chose us.

         1) Even though God knew all about us and all about the things we would do, still He extended His saving grace toward us and decided to make us His children.

   c. I have been "Saved to Serve!"

3. I'VE BEEN CALLED INTO MINISTRY!

Ephesians 4:1: “. . . I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.”

1 Peter 2:9-10 (LB): “... You have been chosen by God himself -- you are priests of the King... you are God's very own -- all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of darkness into his wonderful light! Once you were less than nothing, now you are God's own!”
a. To walk "worthy" is to exhibit a lifestyle that would honor Christ
b. I am not who I think I am
    But I really am who God says I am!

c. A LIFE CHANGING TRUTH - MY PRIMARY IDENTITY:
   I AM A MINISTER OF JESUS CHRIST!

4. I'VE BEEN GIFTED FOR MINISTRY!

   1 Peter 4:10: "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

   a. Every Christian has received at least one gift from God, and along with it, the grace and strength to use it.
   b. These gifts are a stewardship from God.
   c. They are not to be used for selfish gain, but for His glory and for the good of others.
   d. We are not meant to be terminals for God’s gifts of God’s gifts to us.
   e. His grace reaches to us but should not end with us.
   f. We are intended to be channels through whom the blessing can flow to others.  (Believer’s Bible Commentary, p.2277)

5. I'VE BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR MINISTRY!

   Matthew 28:18-19: "(Jesus said) All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples..."
   a. In one sense, of course, Jesus always had all authority.
   b. Since His death and resurrection, He has had authority to give eternal life to all whom God had given Him. (John 17:2)
   c. He had always had authority as the first born of all creation.(Col.1:15)
   d. But now that He had completed the work of redemption, He had authority as the firstborn from the dead. (Col.1:18)
   e. As head of the new creation, He then issued the Great Commission, containing “standing orders” for all believers.
   (Believer’s Bible Commentary, p.1312)

6. I'M COMMANDED TO MINISTRY!

   Matthew 20:28 (LB): "(Jesus) your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve..."
   Colossians 4:17: "(To Archippus) “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”
a. Jesus did not become flesh to get people into the church but to get the church (Kingdom) into the world. He commanded us to SERVE!
b. It is not enough to merely love God, to contemplate and study His word.
c. We are to go into the world and DO! We are to serve as He serves.
d. "34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34-35 KJV)
e. We are to DO love, agape. Agape is not an emotion or feeling, it is action. Therefore, agape is a choice.
   (http://ptl2010.wordpress.com/2011/03/07/jesus-commands-us-to-serve)

   i. Agape

   1) To choose to seek the best for others.
   2) This is a love based in the mind.
   3) We can chose to show agape love by actively thinking about, and deciding how we act toward other people.
   4) Agape is the word used when the Bible talks about Christian love for one another.
   5) Agape love is talking about our behavior towards others, not our feelings. (http://www.evangelical.us/love.html)
   6) Given irrespective of considered merit

7. I'M TO BE PREPARED FOR MINISTRY!

   Ephesians 4:11-12: “. . . (God) gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”

   a. God has given men and women of God to equip me for ministry
   b. My responsibility is to

   i. Study to show myself approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15)

   1) My efforts should be concentrated on becoming a worker who does need to be ashamed
   2) I am to handle the Word of truth correctly, faithfully, accurately.

8. THE BODY OF CHRIST NEEDS MY MINISTRY!

   1 Corinthians 12:27 (LB): "All of you together are the one body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it."

   a. I have a part in serving the body of Christ.
The dictionary defines integration as “To make into a whole by bringing all parts together; to unify into one unit.”

We, as the church, are called to be integrated—all of our diverse parts are actually meant to be a cohesive UNIT, by the power of Jesus Christ.

You look around the room and you’ll see people that are different from you.

All these people have personalities that may be very different than yours, they have gifts and abilities that are very different than yours, they have desires and interests that are very different than yours.

They (and YOU) are all here FOR A PURPOSE.

God has brought this very unique bunch of people together for a purpose.

This group, this unit, is a body that can do something amazing together!

But the key is integration. God has brought these parts together into a unit.

We’ve got many parts, but we are to be an integrated whole.

Matthew 9:36-37: “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”

God is looking for someone to labor in His field.

The observers are many. The spectators are many. The complainers are many. But the laborers are few.

Billy Graham said, "The evangelistic harvest is always urgent. The destiny of men, women, and nations is always being decided. Every generation is strategic. We are not responsible for the past generation, and we cannot bear full responsibility for the next one. But we do have our generation. God will hold us responsible as to how well we fulfill our responsibilities to this age and take advantage of our opportunities."

You have your field. I have mine. Let’s get to work.

9. I AM ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY MINISTRY!

Romans 14:12: “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”

Matthew 25:14-30: Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14, 15 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability;
and immediately he went on a journey. \textsuperscript{16} Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. \textsuperscript{17} And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. \textsuperscript{18} But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. \textsuperscript{19} After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 

\textsuperscript{20} ‘So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ \textsuperscript{21} His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ \textsuperscript{22} He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ \textsuperscript{23} His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

\textsuperscript{24} ‘Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. \textsuperscript{25} And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ \textsuperscript{26} ‘But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. \textsuperscript{27} So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. \textsuperscript{28} So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. \textsuperscript{29} ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. \textsuperscript{30} And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Based on this parable, what does Jesus expect of His disciples? (15, 21, 26-27)

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{(v.15)}
\item \textsuperscript{(v.21)}
\item \textsuperscript{(v.26,27)}
\end{itemize}

\textbf{10. I WILL BE REWARDED FOR MY MINISTRY!}

\textbf{Colossians 3:23-24:} “\textit{And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

28
Matthew 25:23: "... Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."

a. In every form of Christian service as well as in every sphere of life, there are many tasks which people find obnoxious.
b. Needless to say we try to avoid such work.
c. But Colossians 2:23 teaches us the very important lesson that the humblest service can be glorified and dignified by doing it for the Lord.
d. If we could regard our work as act of worship or service to God, such an attitude would take some of the drudgery and boredom out of it.
e. Rewards in heaven will not be for prominence or apparent successes; they will not be for talents or opportunities; but rather for faithfulness.

(Reveler’s Bible Commentary, p.2015)

V. THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION

A. DEFINING RECONCILIATION

1. Vine's (Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words) definition of "reconcile" (Grk., katallasso)

   a) "It properly denotes to change, exchange (esp. of money)"
   b) "Hence, of persons, to change from enmity to friendship, to reconcile"
   c) "With regard to the relationship between God and man, the use of this and connected words show that primarily reconciliation is what God accomplishes..."

2. Isaiah 59:1-2: "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."

   a) What has separated you from God?

   b) What has hidden His face from you?

   Sin offends our holy God and separates us from Him. Because God is holy, He cannot ignore, excuse, or tolerate sin as though it didn't matter.
There is enmity between God and man (because of man's sin). Yet the gospel proclaims how God has taken the initiative to reconcile man back to Himself.

**Note this fine distinction:**
God is not reconciled to man, as though God were partly to blame for the enmity.

Rather, man is reconciled to God, for it is man who moved away from God!

**B. HOW RECONCILIATION IS MADE POSSIBLE**

It is possible because of the initiatives that GOD took first! It is possible through Jesus Christ by His death for our sins! When we accepted Christ, we were delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into God’s kingdom. (Colossians 1:13) The Kingdom of Heaven is God’s nation established by Jesus Christ. Luke 22:29. Our citizenship is in the Kingdom of Heaven. (Philippians 3:20). So now we need to operate according to Kingdom rules.

1. **2 Corinthians 5:18:** “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,”

   a) Who does reconciliation come through?

2. **Colossians 1:19-20:** "19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. “

   a) According to these verses, how does reconciliation come?

These verses that teach reconciliation comes through Jesus.

3. **2 Corinthians 5:19, 21:** "19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

   a) According to verse 19, where was God?
b) What was God doing?

i. __________________________________________________________

1) God was actively removing the cause of the estrangement that had come between Himself and man dealing with sin.

2) *Estrange* and *alienate* are often used with reference to two persons whose harmonious relationship has been replaced by hostility or indifference.

3) God does not need to be reconciled, but man *does need to be reconciled to Him*.

ii. __________________________________________________________

1) *Impute* – to take into account; to lay the responsibility or blame for;

2) God brings us back to Himself by blotting out our sins

3) That way is available to all, but is effective only in those who are in Christ

4) The trespasses of unsaved men are definitely imputed to them, but the moment these men trust the Lord Jesus as Savior, they are accounted righteous in Him, and their sins are blotted out.

c) According to verse 21, God made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin for whom? (Make it personal)

___________________________________________________________

d) What was the result? (Make it personal)

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

e) Christ never committed a sin (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:3). It was because Christ was completely innocent, completely without sin, that He was able to take our punishment.

f) If Christ had been sinful Himself, He could only have taken His own punishment, not ours. God made Christ to be sin for us; that is God sent
Christ to stand as a sinner in our place before God’s judgment seat. (Isaiah 53:12)

g) By taking on Himself the punishment for our sins, Christ has taken away our guilt, our unrighteousness. Therefore we are now declared righteous in God’s sight.

(The Amplified New Testament Commentary, p.707)

4. Romans 5:10: “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

a) When were we reconciled to God?

b) How were we reconciled?

c) Going back to what we were and what we are now, think of it this way.
   (1) It was when we were enemies that we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son.
   (2) We were hostile toward the Lord and quite content to have it so.
   (3) Left to ourselves, we felt no need of being reconciled to Him.
   (4) Think of it – enemies of God!
   (5) God did not share our attitude in the matter.
   (6) He intervened in a display of pure grace.
   (7) The substitutionary death of Christ removed the cause of our hostility toward – namely our sins.
   (8) By faith in Christ we have been reconciled to God.

5. Colossians 1:20-22: “and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—”

a) We were enemies in our ________________________________

   (1) We were strangers to His way of thinking.
   (2) Sin corrupted our way of thinking about God.
   (3) Wrong thinking leads to sin, which further perverts our thinking about Him.
b) How were you reconciled to God (22)?

In other words . . . God took Christ, who knew no sin, to represent our sin and to receive the punishment due for sin in His death on the cross. So that we, who were enemies, alienated from God by our sins, might be reconciled back to God!

And through Christ's death:

(1) We might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21: “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

(2) We might be holy, blameless and irreproachable in His sight, because our trespasses are not imputed (charged to our account) to us.

(1)Colossians 1:22: “in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—“

(2)2 Corinthians 5:19: “that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

(3)Romans 4:6-8: “just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”

c) Christ’s death provided the way for all people to come to God.

d) God’s grace is available to every man. Titus 2:11, ”For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men."

e) This does not mean that everyone has been saved but the way has been cleared for anyone who will trust Christ to be saved.
6. Reconciliation is possible because God has offered Jesus as a "propitiation" for our sins!

The word "propitiation" means the turning away of wrath by an offering.

   a) It turned away the wrath of God so that He could pass "over the sins previously committed"

   b) The process whereby someone’s wrath is either ‘averted’ or ‘satisfied’, resulting in ‘mercy’ being received.

   c) The death of Jesus on the cross appeased (satisfied) the justice of God and effected reconciliation between God and mankind.

7. 1 John 2:1-2: "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."

   a) Who is our Advocate? 
      i. An advocate is one who comes to the side of another person in time of need in order to help.
      ii. If a believer should at any time sin, he has a spokesman, a defender, one who speaks to God in the believer’s defense – namely Jesus Christ.
      iii. As our Advocate, the Lord seeks to bring us to the place where we do confess and forsake our sin.
      iv. Note, it does not say with God, but rather with thee Father. He is still our Father even if we sin.

   v. Sin breaks fellowship, but it does not break relationship.

   b) Who is the propitiation for our sins? 
      i. This means that by dying for us, Jesus freed us from the guilt of our sins and restored us to God by providing the needed satisfaction and by removing every barrier to fellowship.
      ii. God can show mercy to us because Jesus has satisfied the claims of justice.
      iii. it is no often that an advocate (lawyer) pays for his clients’ sins; yet that is what our Lord has done, and most remarkable of all, He paid for them by the sacrifice of Himself.
      iv. "Not for ours only but also for the whole world."
v. This does not mean that the whole world is saved. Rather it means that the work of the Lord Jesus is sufficient in value to save all the world, but it is only efficient to save those who actually put their trust in Him.

vi. It is because His work is sufficient for all men that the gospel can be offered to all the world.

vii. But if all men were automatically saved, there would be no need of preaching the gospel to them.

(Believer’s Bible Commentary, pp., 2319-2320)

8. 1 John 4:10: “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

a) Why did God send His Son to be the propitiation for our sins?

i. God’s love was not shown to us because we first loved Him. We did not; in fact, we were His enemies.

ii. God did not love us because we first loved Him, but He loved us in spite of our bitter antagonism.

(a) antagonism - Hostility that results in active resistance, opposition, or contentiousness

This illustrates the great love God has for us, and how far He has gone in trying to reconcile man back to Himself!

VI. OUR NEW VIEW

1. 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 (NIV) “16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

a) How are we no longer to regard anyone?

_______________________________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

b) How would you regard someone from the “worldly point of view?”

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

From now on we are not to regard men according to appearances, human credentials, or national origin.
c) How should we view people?

We should see people as precious souls for which Christ died.

d) How are Christians new creations in Christ?

i. Positionally - Mankind can be divided into two groups:

1) those outside of Christ (Col.4:5; 1 Thess. 4:12);
2) those who are "IN CHRIST" (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:1)
3) By man's first birth he is "IN ADAM" (1 Cor. 15:22) and he is part of the old creation that was spoiled by the fall.
4) By man's second birth (John 3) he is "IN CHRIST" (1 Cor. 15:22) and part of the new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).

2. Romans 12:1-2 (MSG) “...God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”

a) According to these verses, what are you to do with your life?

b) Where are we to fix our attention?

c) What is the result?
As we fix our attention on God, we no longer see Jesus from a worldly viewpoint. We now would fix our eyes on the eternal instead of the temporary. This new view changes how we look at Jesus, life’s problems and others. We become a new creation with a new view. When Our View of Jesus Changes, So Does Our View of Others.

God Changes Our Eyesight. Paul says, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. Not counting our sins against us. In other words, God sees us differently through Jesus, too. Humanity, seen through the eyes of Jesus, looks different to God. No longer does God see us as standing in His debt, owing God what we can never repay. When God looks at us, He sees His Son, Jesus, and God sees that mankind’s sins have been paid for, the debt cancelled, and the grave empty. God changes our eyesight because God’s own view of us has changed, too. We have been reconciled to God. Made right, brought home, welcomed into the family, seated at the table, loved by our Father.

VII. THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

1. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19: “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

   a) What has God given us? (18)
       __________________________________________________________
       __________________________________________________________

   b) Make it personal – God has given to ________________ the
       __________________________________________________________

   c) What has God committed to us? (19)
       __________________________________________________________
       __________________________________________________________

   d) Make it personal – God has committed to _____________ the _____________
       __________________________________________________________

   It is His Word that we must speak. No words that man devises will reconcile others to God.
2. **2 Corinthians 5:20-21**: “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

   a) What is your job title?

      ________________________________________________________________

      1) You are an ambassador for Christ.
         i. An ambassador is an authorized messenger or representative.
         ii. An ambassador lives in a culture that is not his, it is not his home.
         iii. He is there to represent his country even when he may get an unfriendly reception.
         iv. Since neither God nor Christ can be here to reconcile mankind, we are their representatives.

3. **There are three (3) major features of an ambassador:**

   a) He represents (II Corinthians 5:20)

   b) He is sent (Mark 16:15)

   c) He speaks (Ephesians 6:20)

   You have a message of reconciliation. Can you put your message into words?

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The message:

(1) We have a problem – our sin separates us from God.

(2) God has a solution – He sent Jesus to die on a cross, to pay the penalty for our sins.

(3) We must respond – we need to turn from our sins and receive God’s free gift. We need to believe and “call on the name of the Lord.

VII. How do we perform this ministry?\(^9,10,11\)

A. God Does The Reconciling, We Issue the Invitation

We are inviting all who are on the other side of God’s fence, or who think they are, to be reconciled to God.

1. \textit{II Corinthians 3:2, 3:} “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; \(^3\) clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.” \textit{(epistle – letter)}

   a) According this verse, what are you?

   ____________________________________________________________

   Others will read us before they read the Bible. If the Word is in our hearts, we will act like it. Do we act like we are reconciled to God? Do we manifest ‘agape’ -- the love of God that gives and sacrifices expecting nothing back in return? If we do, the Word we speak can have the desired impact on our listeners.

   “But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.” (Luke 6:35)

   To speak the Word of reconciliation, we must know it first. This can only be accomplished by studying.

2. \textit{II Timothy 2:15 (KJV)} – “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

   a) Why should we study the Word of God?
3. Ephesians 6:20 – “For which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (bold – confident; show assurance)

   a) How are we to speak?

4. I Timothy 2:3b-4 – “God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the [accurate] knowledge of the truth.”

   a) According to this verse, what is God’s desire?

      (1) __________________________________________________________

      (2) __________________________________________________________

      (3) In order to be saved, man must come to the knowledge of the truth.

      (4) God does not save men against their will. He does not populate His Kingdom with rebellious subjects.

      (5) Man must come to Him.

      (6) Although God desires that all men should be saved, yet not all men will be saved.

      (7) It was not initially God’s will that the children of Israel should wander for 40 years in the wilderness; yet they did it just the same. He permitted it, but it was not the pathway of blessing He had planned for them.

   The ministry of reconciliation is a right and privilege of the children of God. By speaking the Word to others, we can help show them God’s love for them, so they will be reconciled to God.
5. Romans 10: 14-15 – “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”

- According to these verses,
  a) To be saved you have to call on Christ.
  b) To call you have to believe on Christ.
  c) To believe, you have to hear the word of Christ.
  d) To hear, you have to have someone proclaiming the message of Christ.
  e) And to proclaim with divine authority, you have to be sent by God.

6. God is the One:

   (1)Who initiates the proclamation of the gospel,
   (2)Who sends out those who proclaim it, and
   (3)Who personally speaks through them as they do so.

- The order that these events happen:
  a) a preacher must be sent;
  b) the sent preacher must preach the good news;
  c) the preached good news must be heard;
  d) the heard good news must be believed;
  e) the belief must be the kind that calls on God for salvation.

  Sending, preaching, hearing, believing, calling on God.
B. HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET\textsuperscript{12,13}

No one in the time of Jesus had beautiful feet.

Both city and country people either went barefoot or wore sandals. Country roads were rocky and dusty, and city streets were downright filthy - they didn't have street cleaners like we do today.

So most people walked almost everywhere with very little foot protection. Their feet took a lot of abuse and were the ugliest parts of their bodies.

When people entered a house, they left their sandals at the door and washed their feet before they went into the house. There was no way to get their sandals clean enough to wear indoors.

But the news about Jesus is so good, that even the feet of the person who brings the Good News are beautiful.

It is interesting that God calls the “feet” beautiful. God could have called the lips beautiful, or the mouth; but he said, “the feet.” Why the feet? It’s because it is with one's feet that they carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to lost sinners.

The most eloquent speaker in all the world is useless if he has idle feet. The most charming person, who may possess a great wealth of Bible knowledge, is useless if he or she is unwilling to take the message of Christ crucified to lost sinners. The praise goes to the Believer who brings the Good News of Christ crucified and risen to lost sinners.

The Ministry of Reconciliation was committed to us by God. If we don't move His Word, it simply won't move. We are God's legs, arms, and mouth.

Jesus said in Matthew 28:19-20: \textit{“19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”} Amen.

One of the signs of a truly committed Christian is whether or not he or she shares God's Word with others. If someone didn't share God's Word with you, where would you be today? Sometimes if we have fear about something, we have to confront that fear and simply do what we fear. Then it just seems to disappear. Remember to do your best. That is all God expects. When you share God's Word with others, you will get blessed. It's something you simply have to experience.
VIII. MY TRUE IDENTITY AS A BELEIVER IN JESUS CHRIST:

1. I am a citizen of God’s kingdom.

2. I am God’s authorized messenger and representative.

3. I am a minister of Jesus Christ.
   a) I minister to God through worship.
   b) I minister to other believers through serving.
   c) I minister to unbelievers through witnessing.
   d) God has given me the ministry of reconciliation.
   e) God has committed to me the word of reconciliation.
   f) Jesus commanded me to go and make disciples.
   g) Unsaved people will not be saved unless I tell them about Jesus.
Adaptation Sources

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