



Women Devoted to God

Lesson 07

Ministry for the Growth of the Body

by Sarah Hartwig

¹²*For the equipping of the saints for the work of service,
to the building up of the body of Christ;*
¹³*until we all attain to the unity of the faith,
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to a mature man, to the measure of the stature
which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

Ephesians 4:12-13

1. What is ministry?

Ephesians 4:7, 11-16.

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.



Ministry is humble _____

“Service” comes from the Greek word **diakonia** meaning
_____.

Motivated by _____

“I found myself loving the ministry but winking at the Master.”

Les Ollila

For the purpose of _____
the body of Christ

So that we _____ **into our head,**
Jesus Christ.

2. How do we grow?

Ephesians 4:16 *From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

“There is a contribution that every person makes. And you have got to believe that if Christ Jesus adds you to a particular assembly, He does it because He knows all the facts about you and He knows all the facts about us and where you fit and contribute.”

Pastor Mark Minnick

Assessing your giftedness

Ephesians 4:7 *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

- a) Start with what you know:
 - Edify
 - Love
 - Grow in knowledge

- b) Ask more specific questions:¹
 - What do I find I spontaneously have a desire to do within the body?
 - How do people seem to respond when I serve them in those ways?
 - What kinds of opportunities do people tend to offer me?
 - Do they keep asking?
 - While serving in an area where I sense I may be gifted, do I and others sense God's use of me?



¹ Taken directly from a private email response from Robert Vincent.

3. Are there any hindrances to serving?

a) Lack of love

b) Lack of knowledge

c) Lack of unity

Ephesians 4:1-3 *Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

“We are put to the test as to whether we are learning to respond with more grace to one another. More graciously. Less abrasively. Less of myself. Less of my temperament. Less of the way I was raised. Less of the way I react, but graciously and forgivingly, with gentleness and meekness and slow to take offense. More inclined to offer love and comfort.”

Pastor Mark Minnick

What is ministry?

Humble service

*motivated by our love for the Lord
for the purpose of building up the body of Christ
so that we grow into our head, Jesus Christ.*

Sources:

Anderson, Hannah. *Humble Roots: How Humility Grounds and Nourishes Your Soul*.

Shaffer, Ebony. "[The Motivational Gifts.](#)"

Veith Jr., Gene Edward. *God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life*.

Messages:

Minnick, Mark²

"Unity's Necessary Spirit" (Ephesians 4:1-3), September 12, 1999.

"Guarding the Spirit's Unity" (Ephesians 4:2-3), September 19, 1999.

"How Christ Builds His Church" (Ephesians 4:12), February 13, 2000.

"Christ's Objective for His Church" (Ephesians 4:13), February 20, 2000.

"Pastoral Theology in a Single Sentence" (Colossians 1:28-29), March 7, 2018.

"What is Revival" (Psalm 119, Revelation 3), February 14, 2018. *BJU Bible Conference 2018*

Ollila, Les.

"Laborers Together" (1 Corinthians 1), February 15, 2018. *BJU Bible Conference 2018*

² Unless otherwise noted, all sermons can be accessed from our church bookstore or website (www.mountcalvarybaptist.org).