

# Leadership

## Part 1 The Call

### End-Time Ministry Model

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## INTRODUCTION

### Disclaimer

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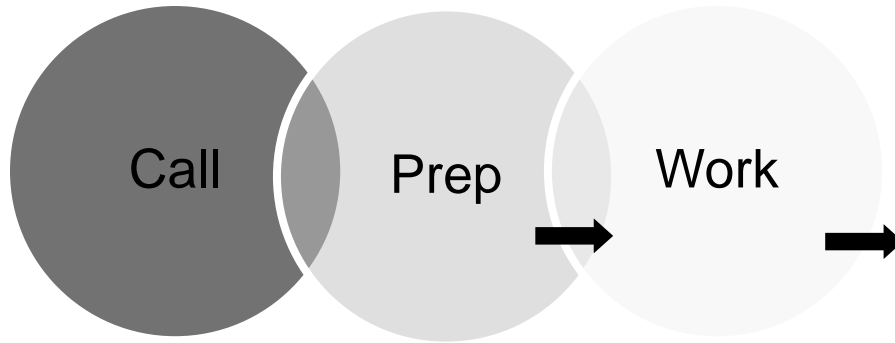
**On line courses are presented in Audio form only with a syllabus.**

**The cost is \$25 per student per section. This is non-refundable.**

### Materials

**Because KJV is public domain, that version will be used for large sections of scripture. Where practical or necessary, other versions will be used and indicated at point of insertion.**

**Hebrew, Greek and definitions are taken from Strong's Exhaustive Concordance or the same on Eliyah.com.**



## THE CALL

In this section you will settle the matter of your calling. You will gain the confidence that comes from defining your ministry and formulating responses to the obstacles that will come your way as you let it be known you are called by God to minister. You will learn the answer to the questions, "What's next now that I know I'm called into the ministry? What kind of education do I really need? Am I an evangelist, a pastor, a teacher, or what? Can women be ordained? What about my advanced age and ministry? How will I balance ministry and family?"

### How to know you are called by God

For the purposes of this class it should be understood that by "called" we are referring to a God-given unction to the five-fold ministry as described in Ephesians 4. However, we do acknowledge that all true service to God is by unction and obedience and that God has given all believers the ministry of reconciliation.

Ephesians 4:11 . . . apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NKJV) 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 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.

Ten reasons NOT to assume you are called:

1. Your father/mother is a preacher
2. Peer Pressure (someone or everyone else is doing it)
3. Pride (you think you can do it better)
4. Jealousy (Why do they get to be ordained and not me?)
5. Because you've taken all the classes
6. Because it was offered and why not?
7. You crave promotion and attention

8. Fame and Money
9. Prophecy
10. Personal agenda

One reason to KNOW you are called:

1. You know in your Spirit and your life has displayed and/or is displaying that knowing.

If you are called by God into the five-fold ministry, you will never feel fulfilled doing anything else.

You can be fulfilled serving God in many capacities without being in the five-fold ministry when you are not called to the five-fold ministry.

## Defining your ministry

### Word of God vs. Man's Tradition

Matthew 15:1 Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, 2 “Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” 3 He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ 5 But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God” 6 then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. 7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:

8 ‘ These people draw near to Me with their mouth,

And honor Me with their lips,

But their heart is far from Me.

9 And in vain they worship Me,

Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

II Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

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You also should have received early on in the calling, a vision from God of your ministry. Again, this should be based solely on Holy Spirit information and not on experience or observation. Just

because you may have admired a minister doesn't mean your ministry must imitate theirs. Do only what God tells you specifically to do.

Jesus said He did only what He saw the Father doing. John 5:19

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he.

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Tradition of man says you must be one of either pastor, prophet, evangelist, teacher, apostle (Ephesians 4). This is not biblical. You can be one, several or all of these over the course of a lifetime in ministry. Let's look at Ephesians 4 a little closer. And let's look at Paul's ministry as well.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

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Previously in this chapter God emphasized oneness. Ministry is one. Application is five-fold that is singular in purpose.

If you are called to the ministry and by tradition you think you can only evangelize, you are asked to speak and there are no lost people in the crowd, and there is no other minister there are you NOT a called minister in that moment?

Can you perform in more than one area at a time? Yes

Titus 2:15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

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If God needs a teacher in that moment and you are the called minister, are you going to tell God, "God, you've made a mistake." "Call someone else because this is not what I do."?

No, of course not! You are called to the ministry and are available to the sovereign God who called you and will do whatever that sovereign God requires.

There are no elite teachers, apostles, pastors, evangelists or prophets. We are ministers called by God.

Let me show you proof in scripture:

Colossians 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

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1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

1 Timothy 2:7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

2 Timothy 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

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The translation of the word 'pastor' only appears in Ephesians. The word Shepherd is only used of Jesus in the New Testament.

Acts 21:8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of **Philip the evangelist**, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

II Chronicles 15:3 Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a **teaching priest**, and without law.

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Let's look now at the word 'some' from the Ephesians 4 list of ministry functions. This is from [www.eliyah.com](http://www.eliyah.com), Strong's Concordance.

Greek: *Men*, truly, certainly, surely, indeed

2 Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the **work of an evangelist**, make full proof of thy ministry.

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Greek: (Make full proof) *plērophoreō*, words for full proof: 1. to bear or bring full, to make full, a) to cause a thing to be shown to the full, 1) to fulfil the ministry in every part

Now that we've established that those called to ministry are available to serve in any and all capacities or functions according to God's unction, let's look at the functions themselves:

(Ephesians 4:11)

- Gave – Greek: *Didomi*, To bestow a gift, to supply, furnish necessary things, to give over to one's care, entrust, commit something to be administered, to give or commit to someone something to be religiously observed. Examples of: Give, Given - Matthew 6:11 and 7:7

- Apostles – Greek: *Apostolos*, A delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders. From root: to order (one) to go to a place appointed.
- And – Greek: *De*, Moreover, etc.
- Prophets – Greek: *Prophētēs*, Root = Pro-phemi, Before, declare. One who, moved by the Spirit of God and hence his organ or spokesman, solemnly declares to men what he has received by inspiration, especially concerning future events, and in particular such as relate to the cause and kingdom of God and to human salvation .
- Evangelist – Greek: *Euaggelistēs*, A bringer of good tidings.
- Pastors – Greek: *Poimēn*, A herdsman, especially a shepherd. Examples of shepherds: Psalm 23, John 21:17
- Teachers – Greek: *Didaskalos*, One who teaches concerning the things of God, and the duties of man.

II Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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Assignment: Write an essay describing, 1) Why you think you are called to in the Ephesians 4 ministry, 2) Describe the vision God has given you for the ministry He has called you to carry out.

Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

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## Obstacles to ministry

### Overcoming Obstacles to the Call

- Gender
- Age
- Education
- Family and Friends

Your obstacles to ministry, if you are called, are demonically based but humanly implemented, usually. You can have a spiritual attack of the enemy in and of itself, but normally the attacks are from yourself (a person) or friends and family or strangers. Let's consider some of the major areas of attack.

There are two ways to look at every obstacle. The first way is to see it as an obstacle, believing and agreeing with the voice of the enemy. The second way is to find out what God says in His scripture. If you can find applicable evidence in scripture that the attack is wrong, you have your answer and should walk boldly in what God says, not be defeated by what man says.



– Gender

Man says women can't preach or can only preach or teach to children and/or other women. Man says men should not be instructed by women. Men are cautioned not to teach only women for fear there will be a temptation or an accusation. What does God say?

- No male/female

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

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- Aquila and Priscilla; a married couple working side by side in ministry.
- Deborah led Israel's army and was called and known as a prophetess. (Judges 4:4)
- Four virgin daughters who were known to prophesy (Acts 21:8-10)
- Anna (Luke 2:36) was called a prophetess (and was of very great age).
- Lee Grady's book, 10 Lies the Church Tells Women
- "Who Said Women Can't Teach?" by Charles Trombley

– Age

If you research the age of men and women in the scriptures at the time of their calling you will find many very young and very old individuals. You might want to have a few of these in your memory banks in order to answer opponents.

– Education

Do you need to have a degree of higher learning to be accepted by God in the ministry? No!

Do you need a degree of higher learning to be accepted by man in the ministry? Sometimes.

Do you need to have a complete understanding of the whole Bible in order to enter ministry? No, but you do need Holy Spirit.

Do you need to have an intimate relationship with God to enter the ministry or to carry out ministry?

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Galatians 2

Proverbs 18:15-17 The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge. 16A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.

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Daniel was trained. Moses was trained. Paul was trained. Timothy was trained. The original 12 apostles were trained. David was trained.

– Friends and Family

Some of your greatest opponents to entering the ministry are from friends and family; those closest to you. Even if they are supportive initially, they may oppose you along the way. How do we balance this?

Mark 10:28-30 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. 29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Matthew 12:47-49 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? 49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

Matthew 4:20-22 20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. 21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. 22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

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Your position as wife and mother, husband and father, sister and daughter, brother and son is a result of natural birth, marriage or adoption and not a divine calling short of God directing you into that relationship initially as in the instruction to Joseph to go ahead and marry the virgin Mary.

Even Jesus, whose birth WAS a divine calling, did not place His mother above the ministry, but placed her rather within the ministry. He had balance. He was no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). His mother needed to be under His ministry as much as the rest of the people. Jesus would taste death for her as well as all humanity. (Hebrews 2:9)

David's wife, Michal, despised his exuberant dancing as he accompanied the Ark of the Covenant. (II Samuel 6:14-16)

Job's wife was not a spiritual giant of blessing and equipping. (Job 2:8-10)

Paul's thorn in the flesh. II Corinthians 11:27-29

## Answering the Call

When you start into ministry you will hear statements such as, “Don’t be a lone wolf or a renegade.” “What’s your covering?”

### **Mentoring Model**

The 12 original apostles mentored under Jesus for 3 ½ years before launching into ministry in teams. Timothy was mentored by Paul for a number of years before going it alone with the assistance of the body of Christ under his care.

#### **Structure of mentoring model:**

In a mentoring model, you are under the tutelage of a mentor who has gone where you need to go. You learn the ‘how to’s’ and the ‘what not to do’s’ from that individual. You may not have an ending date. You most definitely will feel ready before the mentor thinks you are ready, OR the mentor may push you to the front before you feel ready.

If you place yourself under a mentor, you should do so because you AND the mentor feel led by Holy Spirit to enter into such an arrangement. Be submissive to their directing. Don’t kick against the pricks as Paul said, meaning don’t always fight against the leadership of the mentor.

#### **Reality check:**

Mentors are human. They can have a bad day. They have other issues besides you to consider. Stay in relationship to God so if the mentor fails, God can lead you out of the situation in the proper way. You are not the mentor’s housekeeper, errand boy, door mat. They should respect your calling as well. The relationship between the mentor and the one who is being mentored must remain healthy and pure.

1 Timothy 1:2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:4 No man that wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. 3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

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### **Experience Model**

Paul had a track record as a Pharisee. He had 'seminary' training which also included mentoring at some point.

Just because a person has experience in a certain area does not mean they are automatically called to minister in that area of expertise. For example, if a doctor is called into the ministry, it does not automatically follow that God will use him or her in missions, for example, performing medical service and then preaching.

We all have a variety of experiences and God can bring any of them to the forefront.

Also, there will always be people who do not recognize your experience as valuable or as qualifying you for ministry. You must know in your knower that you are called. In this model, again, no one owes you a position. It is God who promotes. It is God who opens doors of opportunity.

Psalm 75:5-7 Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck. 6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. 7But God is the judge: he puts down one, and sets up another.

Proverbs 4:7-9 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. 8Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honor, when thou dost embrace her. 9She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

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Experience does not mean you have no need of further training.

Galatians 1:11-13 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. 13For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. 15But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: 17Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. 18Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. 19But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. 20Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not. 21Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; 22And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: 23But

they had heard only, that he which persecuted us in times past now preaches the faith which once he destroyed. 24And they glorified God in me.

Acts 18:24-26 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

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### **Solitary Model**

John the Baptist simply showed up and ministered, BUT he did so in the spirit and power of Elijah who also just showed up.

Acts 26:13-19 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. 14And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 15And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecute. 16But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; 17Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, 18To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. 19Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

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The granola people are found in this type of ministry (nuts, flakes and fruits). However, honorable men and women of God who have a true anointing can also be in this group. They would do well to align with an apostolic ministry who can bring out the best in them.

Remember that you are called to the ministry, not to just one office or operation of the ministry.

Now that you have defined your calling or ministry, you can be led into how it will be implemented. Will it be in the church, sent out from the church, or a parachurch ministry?

1 Corinthians 12:28-30 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

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GOD sets these in church!

“In the church” is the key. Within an assembly, you don’t want all to be the same thing. It would be chaotic.

Greek word study for 1 Corinthians 12:28-30:

Set – Greek: *Tithēmi*. To make (or set) for one's self or for one's use, to set, fix establish

Some –Greek: *Men*, Truly, Certainly, Surely, Indeed

Church – Greek: *Ekklēsia*, A gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly

First – Greek: *Proton*, First in time or place in any succession of things or persons first in rank influence, honor, chief, principal

Apostles – Greek: *Apostolos*, A delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders. From root: to order (one) to go to a place appointed

Secondarily - Greek: *Deuteros*, The second, the other of two

Prophets – Greek: *Prophētēs*, Root = Greek: *Pro-phemī*, Before, declare. One who, moved by the Spirit of God and hence his organ or spokesman, solemnly declares to men what he has received by inspiration, especially concerning future events, and in particular such as relate to the cause and kingdom of God and to human salvation

Thirdly – Greek: *Tritos*, The third

Teachers – Greek: *Didaskalos*, One who teaches concerning the things of God, and the duties of man

II Timothy 3:16-17

After that – Greek: *Epeita*, Thereupon, Thereafter, Then, Afterwards

Miracles – Greek: *Dunamis*, Strength, Power, Ability

Gifts of Healing – Greek: *Charisma* loma, Favor of a means of healing

Helps – Greek: *Antilēmpsis*, A laying hold of, aid

Governments – Greek: *Kybernēsis*, Governing (only here in the NT)

Diversities of Tongues -- Greek: *Genos glōssa*, Kindred of the tongue, an organ of speech (Same as I Cor 12:10)

Whichever model of implementation is chosen, you are dealing with authority figures and God-ordained offices.

Romans 13:1-7 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. **For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.** 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For

he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

1 Timothy 2:1-3 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;

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It is not ours to judge if the person in charge should be in charge. We can discern the individual, but must not judge their position unless they are under our authority and God dictates we make changes.

So, within your home church, if the pastor puts someone in authority, we give respect to that decision, because we believe the pastor is also under authority. We should not only respect the individual's position, but pray for the individual in a loving manner.

We may not like who the country put in office as president, but we show respect and do not curse the decision, but rather pray Godly, constructive prayers for that person. It brings a curse on us to rail against them.

I have ordained individuals, placed others in offices of authority, chosen certain ones for a task and have watched as others have shown disrespect to my choices and therefore to me and therefore to God for putting me in a position of choosing.

I have not always been allowed by God to choose the one who seemed most qualified. Sometimes He has asked me to choose a troublemaker for a position. Look at the choice of Judas Iscariot for treasurer.

2 Peter 2:10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

Jude 1:8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

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**To lead, you must know how to follow!** We don't demand respect; we command respect by earning it and walking in respectfulness. You reap what you sow.

Matthew 8:8-10 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou should come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. 9For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

10When Jesus heard it, **he marveled**, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

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Jesus called this great faith, to understand walking under authority and in authority. Our society puts a high value on opposing authority. However, in God's society, we only resist satan, satanic influence and we resist it through our spiritual weaponry.

We should be on guard against narcissistic tendencies; the I, I, I, and me, me, me attitude.

We have great freedom in the Body of Christ. However Paul gives us some very valuable cautionary input.

Romans 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

1 Corinthians 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1 Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

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Each minister must decide if their own freedom is the most important, if getting out the message is the most important, if they want to narrow the scope of ministry to maintain freedom.

Points of discussion: Dress codes, ministry styles, personal liberties such as drinking, manifestation of Holy Spirit, etc.

Isaiah 53:1-3 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? 2For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. 3He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Luke 7:33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil.

Mark 1:6 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

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The only absolute is God. Your calling will change as God uses you. Your understanding of the word of God should grow and be challenged. Your wisdom and application should adjust as God



trains you. You should not be tossed about, overly emotional, easily deterred from God's directions, stubbornly stuck to your opinion.

The word of God is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path (Psalms 119:105)

Holy Spirit guides and teaches us. (John 16:13, John 14:26)

The ministry is still working to perfect us, though we are in ministry.

Eph. 4:12-13 (NIV) to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Isaiah 6:9 And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

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This is not Elijah's original calling, but an additional commission.

II King 2:14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

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Where God? How God?

Galatians 2:14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

I Corinthians 1:1 Paul called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God.

Romans 8:26-28 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. 28And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

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Greek study

According to = Greek: *kat*. Genitive case = vertical motion. Accusative = horizontal motion

Purpose = Greek: *prothesis*, 1) a setting forth of a thing, placing of it in view, the showbread

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

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