

# The Foundation of Ministry

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 301*)

“(God) has given ... pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so the body of Christ may be built up”  
(Eph. 4:11-12).

**E**xperience shows that a new believer should be committed to membership in a church family and to the habits of Christian maturity before they are ready for ministry within the Body of Christ.



**Salvation, church membership and spiritual maturity are the foundation for ministry.**

Contrary to popular belief, the Bible teaches that ...

- the pastors are the administrators
- the people are the ministers

**The key to my Foundation of Ministry: my personal ministry is determined by my personal makeup!**

What God made me to **BE** determines what He intends for me to **DO**, and I will understand the **purpose** I was created for when I understand the kind of **person** I am. This is the secret of knowing God’s will for my life and feeling fulfilled in my relationship with Him!

God is consistent in His plan for each of our lives. He would not give us inborn talents and temperaments, spiritual gifts, and all sorts of life experiences and then not use them! So, by studying these factors, we can discover the ministry God has for us, the unique way God intends for us to serve him.



**There are two wonderful results that happen when I discover the ministry God has shaped me for: (1) fulfillment, (2) fruitfulness.**

At United Pentecostal Church, we focus on an **individual** approach to ministry rather than an **institutional** approach. In this lesson, we will focus on five personal factors that God has combined to shape the “real you.” By identifying the specific traits you possess in each of these areas, the ministry God has designed you for will become crystal clear. You will also learn about our strategy for ministry and what you can do to become more involved in your church family.

## THE GOAL OF THIS LESSON

I want to discover my unique design (S.H.A.P.E.) for ministry and commit myself to developing and using my God-given gifts and abilities to serve God and others through my church family.

**There are TWO TYPES of ministry:**

- My **PRIMARY** ministry is a ministry that I am gifted to do, and spend maximum time in as a result.
- My **SECONDARY** ministry is a ministry that I am not necessarily gifted to do, but I get involved in simply because I have a servant's heart.

**WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MINISTRY**

**1. WHAT IS MINISTRY?**

- Definition: (Greek "diakonos") – "to serve"
- Ministry is using whatever gifts God has given me to serve Him and meet the needs of others.

**2. WE MINISTER IN THREE DIRECTIONS**

- To the Lord (Acts 13:2)
- To other believers (Hebrews 6:10)
- To unbelievers (Matthew 5:13)

**3. WE MINISTER TO THREE AREAS OF NEED**

- To people's physical needs.

*"(God says) I was hungry and you fed me ... thirsty and you gave me a drink ... needed clothes and you clothed me ... sick and you cared for me ... in prison and you visited me ... Whenever you have done this to the least person, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:35-36, 40).*

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

- To people's emotional needs.

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

- To people's spiritual needs.

*"... God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18).*

*"We proclaim Christ, counseling and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ" (Colossians 1:28-29).*

**4. THE PURPOSE OF MINISTRY**

*"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and*

some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's 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" (Ephesians 4:11-13).

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

The purpose of ministry is to build up the local church (the Body of Christ) so that it will be more effective in caring for its members and in reaching others through evangelism.

### WHY SHOULD I BE INTERESTED IN MINISTRY?

#### 1. I'VE BEEN CREATED FOR MINISTRY

"For we are God's workmanship, **created** in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God **prepared in advance** for us to do" (Eph. 2:10).

#### 2. I'VE BEEN SAVED FOR MINISTRY

"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 ..." (2 Timothy 1:9).

#### 3. I'VE BEEN CALLED INTO MINISTRY

"God, in his grace, chose me even before I was born, and **called me to serve him**" (Galatians 1:15).

"I urge you to live a life worthy of the **calling** you have received" (Ephesians 4:1).

"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" (1 Peter 2:9-10).

"... you will serve as **holy priests** ..." (1 Peter 2:5).



I am not who I think I am, and I am not who you think I am – I am who GOD says I am. It is a life-changing truth to know my primary identity – I am a MINISTER of Jesus Christ.

#### 4. I'VE BEEN GIFTED FOR MINISTRY

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them **to help each other**, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessing" (1 Peter 4:10).

#### 5. I'VE BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR MINISTRY

*“(Jesus said) All **authority** in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples ...” (Matthew 28:18-19).*

*“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors ...” (2 Corinthians 5:20).*

## 6. I’M COMMANDED TO MINISTER

*“(Jesus said) **Your attitude must be like my own**, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve ...” (Matthew 20:28).*

*“(Paul said) Take heed to the ministry you’ve received from the Lord and **fulfill it**” (Colossians 4:17).*

## 7. I’M TO BE PREPARED FOR MINISTRY

*“God gave ... pastors and teachers ... **to prepare God’s people for works of ministry** so that the Body of Christ may be built up ...” (Ephesians 4:11-12).*

## 8. THE BODY OF CHRIST NEEDS MY MINISTRY

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

**Biblical ministry always functions in within the context of my local church family.**

*“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said, **The harvest is great but the workers are few**. Ask the Lord to send out workers into his harvest field” (Matt. 9:36-37).*

For a member of Christ’s body to refuse their place in ministry would be just like a part of your body saying, “I just need some time off” or “I don’t want to work, I just want to be fed.”

## 9. I AM ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY MINISTRY

*“So then, each of us will give an **account** of himself to God” (Romans 14:12).*

The Lord taught in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) that it is a SIN for me not to use the ministry He has given me.

## 10. I WILL BE REWARDED FOR MY MINISTRY

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, **as working for the Lord, not men**, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord **as a reward**” (Colossians 3:23-24).*

*“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master’s happiness” (Matthew 25:23).*



**Finding, developing and using your ministry is the central issue of your Christian life.**

**Study Questions**

1. What God made me to \_\_\_\_\_ determines what He intends for me to \_\_\_\_\_, and I will understand the \_\_\_\_\_ I was created for when I understand the kind of \_\_\_\_\_ I am.

2. List the two (2) wonderful results that happen when I discover the ministry God had shaped me for.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

3. List and describe the two (2) types of ministry.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Explain what is ministry. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What three (3) directions do we minister in? Support with Scripture reference.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

6. To what three (3) areas of people's need do we minister? List Scriptures to support.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the purpose of ministry? Support your answer with Scripture reference.

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