

GETTING MEMBERS TO PLAY THEIR PART

— Ephesians 4:7-16

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Introduction

We have all heard of the 20/80 principle in the church: 20 % of the people doing 80% of the work. And when the pastor makes up 18% of the 20% that does 80% of the work- it becomes a little too much for one man to bear! And along the road of Christian ministry you will find many burned-out wrecks of good men and woman who could not bear up under the weight and demands of ministry!

Therefore our title – when it becomes to much for one pair of shoulders: how to get members to play their part?

And this brings us before many questions:

- Is it right to share the load of ministry with our members?
- Is this not why they pay you- to bear the load of ministry?
- And if it is right to pass the load on to someone else- how do we do it?

Proposition: We will answer two questions that will help us have a biblical understanding of ministry in a local church and prevent us from burning out:

- Why should every member of the body play his part?
- How do we get every member of the body to play their part?

Text: Ephesians 4: 7-16

1. Why should every member play his part?

When we teach our members to minister in the church and to one another, it is important that we lay down before them God's word- showing them that 'every member a minister' is not the pastor's idea but God's plan for the church!

- (a) Jesus gave various gifts to the Church(vs 7-11)
 - (i) Spiritual gifts(7)

Paul moves from speaking of the unity of all believers to the diversity between believers.

Each believer received a different spiritual gift from Jesus – 1 Cor 12:7,11; 1 Pet 4:10.

Getting members to play their part (Continued)

(ii) Gifted men(8-11)

Jesus, apart from giving each believer a spiritual gift, has given certain gifted men to the church.

Ephesians 4:11 – *“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,”*

Apostles and Prophets were foundational gifts to the church (Acts 1:21-22; 2 Cor 12:12; Eph 2:20, 3:4-6)

Evangelists, pastors and teachers are ongoing gifts, functioning in the church today.

(b) Jesus wants the gifts to function in the Church (12-16)

Jesus gave these gifted men to the church for a purpose- he wants them to equip the church to do the work of ministry and edify the body of Christ. It has never been Jesus' idea that the pastor must do all the work of ministry himself- Jesus wants the pastor to teach the church to do the work of ministry.

(i) Gifted men must equip the church to do the work of service and edification(12)

The priesthood of all believers:

1 Peter 2:5 – *“you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

(ii) Equipped members must minister to each other towards (13)

As each member receives instruction from the evangelist, pastor and teachers, they must take that knowledge and equipment and minister toward one another. They are to minister towards the following:

- Unity in the faith
- knowledge of Jesus
- Spiritual maturity

(ii) The results of every member a ministering(14-16)

When Christians start ministering to each other as Jesus called them to do, amazing results are seen in a local church- all to the glory of God. The absence of these effects in the lives of believers and local churches, strongly suggests the absence of biblical ministry.

Getting members to play their part *(Continued)*

- Doctrinal stability(14)
- Spiritual growth(15)
- The proper working of each part(16)

2. How do we get every member to play his part?

Scripture clearly teaches that every member has a responsibility to minister. But how do we fix this 20/80 principle at work in the church? How do we get every member to become a minister?

Here are at least 10 things you can do:

- (a) Remember that not everyone in your church is saved.
- (b) Learn to let go
- (c) Preach on every member a minister in Christ
 - (i) Eph 4:7-16, 1 Pet 2
 - (ii) The One Anothers
 - 1. John 13:34- Love one another
 - 2. 1 Cor 6- Don't sue one another
 - 3. 1 Cor 12:10- be affectionate to one another
 - 4. Rom 14:19- edify one another
 - 5. Gal 5:13- serve one another
 - 6. Gal 6:2- bear one another burdens
 - 7. Eph 4:2- bear with one another
 - 8. Eph 5:32- be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving toward one another
 - 9. Col 3:16- teach and admonish one another
 - 10. Col 3:9- Don't lie to one another
 - 11. 1 Thes 5:11- Comfort one another
 - 12. Heb 3:12- exhort one another daily
 - 13. James 5:9- Don't grumble against one another
 - 14. 1 Pet 4:9- Be hospitable toward one another
- (d) Continue to preach Church – change don't come overnight
- (e) Make ministry opportunities known to people
- (f) Empower people

Getting members to play their part (*Continued*)

- (g) Be patient with people
- (h) Honesty
- (i) Preach the grace of Jesus Christ (Joh 14:15)
- (j) Connect with Jesus (Joh 15:5)

Summary

When pastors and members start following the instructions of the head of the Church, Jesus Christ, in how to function as church, we will see amazing results. We will see fewer burned-out pastors and many Christians on fire for Jesus.

Teach your Church, Lord Jesus, teach us!
