

Everything you thought you knew about Lay Ministry but were afraid to implement!

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One traditional view of ministry



Getting the Right Mindset

Romans 12:2 -

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

A. Right View of
Career/Work

B. Right View of
Ministry

C. Right View of
Evangelism

D. Right View of
Your Purpose

A. Right View of Career/Work

- 1) You do not work to earn a living.
- 2) You do not work to gain significance.
- 3) The workplace is God's environment for training and preparation.

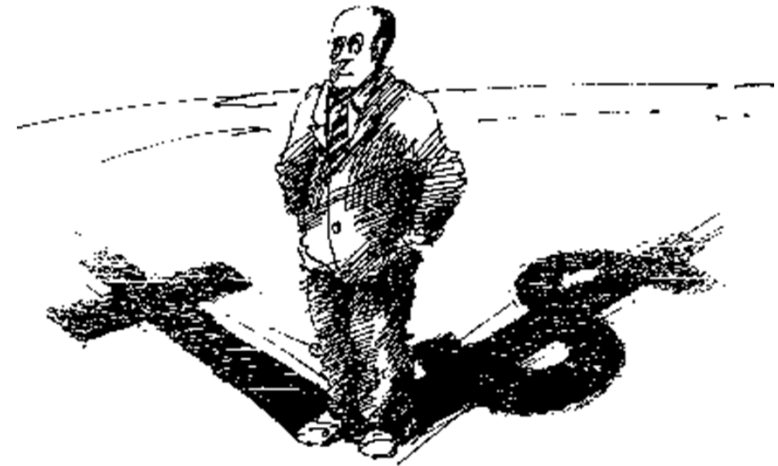
1. You Do Not Work to Earn a Living.

- You must have a right view of career/work, otherwise it gets in the way.
- You look to God and God alone to meet your needs – Phil 4:19
- What if your pastor were to say to you, I work to get the highest salary?
- Just as it is wrong for the pastor to say this, it is equally wrong for you!



2. You Do Not Work to Gain Significance.

- You derive your significance because you are one of the elect.
- Matt 6:22-24 has to do with why you do any particular thing.



Matt 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

3. Workplace is God's Environment for Training and Preparation.

- Work is where you do the ministry
- Environment to work out the issues of faith
- Environment to build Christian Character in your life
- Environment to give your life in exchange for people.
- In short, getting involved in the ministry is good for your spiritual health.



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- Example of Seto, never wanted to be promoted
 - Example of Carpenter and Gene Warr, Janitor and Steve Shih
 - Example of Zhang Shoudong

B. Right View of Ministry

- 4) The priesthood of the ordinary believer.
- 5) Integrate your Christian faith into everyday life.
- 6) Ministry is retail, not institutional.

4. Priesthood of the Ordinary Believer

- Found in I Peter 2:9-10 & 5.
- It is both a right and a responsibility.
- This new mandate of the priesthood of the believer presumes it will be fleshed out in everyday life.
- In the O.T., the priesthood was limited to the Levites only, barring laymen under threat of death. (Numbers 3:9-10).
- In the N.T., God speaks directly through the people, and people now are Ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20).



5. Integrate Your Faith into Everyday Life.

BIFURCATION

- Do not bifurcate your Christian life.
 - a) Monday through Friday is Secular, Sunday is Spiritual
 - b) Preparing to run various sundry errands is secular, preparing your Sunday School lesson is spiritual
 - c) Going on a Business trip is Secular, going on a Missions trip is spiritual
- Before going on short-term missions, learn how to do the ministry at home first.

FOCUS

- Spirituality is not so much a function of your vocation as much as it's a function of your focus.
- In fact the secular is spiritual if your focus is on the eternal
- By the same token, the spiritual turns secular if your focus is on the temporal

EXAMPLES

- The N.T. slave – Colossians 3:23 – Whatever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.
- The Pastor (me) who wanted to build the first Asian American Mega church.



6. Ministry is Retail, not Institutional.

- Example: Goldman Sachs story.
- God is in the people business, Jesus Christ died for people because He loves us.
- Many verses give background to this: II Tim 2:2
- Ministry is most powerfully done when one life impacts another. Ministry is one on one.
- God does not expect product or great accomplishments as much as He expects faithfulness to opportunity.
- Institutional Christianity always takes on its own agenda.



The Layman's Ministry is different from Institutional Ministry

- Relationships outside **vs** inside church
- Personal attention **vs** Group mentality
- Loving People **vs** Managing programs
- Life **vs** preaching
- Stay at home moms **vs** Day Care
- Planting seeds **vs** planting churches

C. Right View of Evangelism

7) Power of the lay witness.

8) Evangelism is not an event but a process.

9) You must see yourself as a lizard rather than a frog.

7. Power of the Lay Witness.

- A case can be made that the lay witness (incarnational truth) has always been God's plan to reach the world.
- After Jesus completed his plan, He talked about a continuation of this plan.
 - a) In upper Room Discourse, Jesus said: I go away so the helper can come.
 - b) Christ in you the Hope of Glory
- The best argument for Christianity is Christians
 - a) He is the church's frontline
 - b) He moves in the midst of a hurting society
- When a pastor is good, he is paid to be good. When a layman is good, He is good for nothing.
- Matt 5:13-16. People would like to know. Does Christianity work at work?
- My HK story, praying for an open door, these people very focused and committed.
 - a) All the Pastors being called to North America
 - b) Those called to stay behind, to set up a lay ministry.
 - c) the Trojan horse – Aim for 50,000 soldiers
 - d) The mindset for HK preparation was focused and consuming
- Today's government in China is forcing a new paradigm – an invisible lay movement that will sweep China like a Prairie fire.



Not just content, but conviction

Not just perfection, but reality

Not just language, but a life

Make every relationship redemptive

- The scale illustration



Make every relationship redemptive

- The scale illustration
- It is a by faith venture



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Therefore...

Evangelism is not an event,
but a *process*

- ∞ Long term, not short term
- ∞ Scales and weights
- ∞ A by-faith venture

The Second Reformation

**Individual
Layman**



**Vocational
Christian
Worker**



9. Lizard vs. Frog Ministry.

- Frog: Vocational Christian Worker
 - Ministry opportunities come to him and he has his hands full.
- Lizard: Layperson
 - Ministry does not seek him out.
 - He must move around in his environment, assess his sphere of influence, establish friendships, and serve people.
 - Once he has earned the right to be heard, he is ready to give an account for the hope in him.



D. Right View of Your Purpose

10) Getting involved in lay ministry is part and parcel of preparing for eternity

- Your purpose in life is to prepare for eternity
- The Great Commission is not optional, it is a command
- Your participation will be evaluated at the judgment

10. Lay Ministry Will Impact Eternity.

- There will be an exit interview after we die. Best taught II Cor 5:9-11
- Luke 19:11-27 also teaches this – The question is “How Much?”
- That difference will be both apparent and appreciable.
- Although you are saved by grace, discipleship makes a difference.
- There is a choice in life between serving God and Mammon
- The Purpose driven life: The purpose of Life is to prepare for eternity.
- Life therefore is a staging area, the time trials to determine position in eternity
- What is it that causes you to hold back?



Matt 25:35 - *"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink..."* Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink?'...And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'"

Four Common Misconceptions

1. "I'm not called to ministry."
2. "I'm not strategically important for ministry."
3. "I'm not effective enough for the ministry."
4. "I don't have time to do ministry."

Four Common Misconceptions

1. I'm not "called" to ministry.

- Being called as a layman is *not* a lesser task
- All callings are from God
- All are called into full time Christian work
- The Great Commission is not optional

Four Common Misconceptions

2. I'm not strategically "important" for ministry.

- The layman, by the very nature of their jobs, move in the mainstream of society
- He is the prime *exhibit A* of faith in action
- When a person crashes, they seek out a friend
- The layman spends most of his productive hours in the non-Christian world

Four Common Misconceptions

3. I'm not "effective" enough for the ministry.

- VCW's aren't listened to better; people are polite
- VCW's are paid to be good
- My autistic son has converted more people
- Model a Christian way to deal with life challenges
- Who here feels adequate to serve the Lord?
- Effectiveness is a function of HS vs human ability

Four Common Misconceptions

4. I don't have the "time" to do ministry.

- Accomplishment is not a function of time
- Ask your pastor what % of his job is spiritual
- It's not *what* you are doing that makes your work Christian, it is *how* you are doing it (Charlie Riggs)
- The actual amount of time you spend laboring on the earth is not yours to decide anyway. It is God who determines the days of our lives.

10 Principles of Lay Ministry

1. Be intentional about "Survival training"
2. Use cross-pollination
3. It happens outside the four walls of a church
4. It is a partnership with the Holy Spirit
5. The Lay ministry is untidy
6. Relating to people, not running programs
7. Focus on habit formation
8. Create accountability
9. Primacy of evangelism
10. Always teach the Bible

Model of Jesus

John 4:1-26

1. Pick a Samaritan (v. 7)
2. Incite their curiosity (vs. 9)
3. Link temporal needs to eternal solutions (Vs. 14)
4. Listen well (vs. 16)
5. Work sin in, bring up missing the mark (vs. 18)
6. Answer their questions (vs. 20)
7. Don't bring up church (vs. 21)
8. Focus on Jesus (vs. 26)



Eternity

- *There is a hell*
- *Reward for effort*
- *Network in Heaven*

Command

- Great Commission
- Obedience to God's Word

Evangelism

Spiritual Health

- *Helps you understand your faith*
- *Helps you experience God*

Assurance

- A Christian can't help but do it.
- Obedience
- Focus

THE BIG 12 APOLOGETIC QUESTIONS

1. How do you know there is a God?
2. How can one believe in miracles?
3. Isn't Christianity just a psychological crutch?
4. Can we trust the Bible, does it have mistakes?
5. Why does God allow evil and suffering
6. Is Christ the Only Way to God? Isn't that a bit intolerant?
7. What about the guy in Africa who have never heard about Jesus?
8. Why does Christianity have so many hypocrites?
9. Won't a good moral life get me to heaven?
10. Isn't salvation by Faith alone too simple?
11. What does the Bible mean by "Believe"?
12. Can anyone be sure of his Salvation?