

THE LOCAL CHURCH

The Vision Of The House-Used Of God Mightily

I. The saints must be perfected because they have a ministry to fulfill

- **Eph4:8,11-16**-When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For (into, towards) the perfecting of the saints for the work (labor, effort) of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ
 - A. The saints do the work of the ministry-The saints are supposed to be doing the work of the ministry
 - 1. **AC**-His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering; **ISV**-To equip the saints, to do the work of ministry; **NLT**-To equip God's people to do his work; **VO**-That God's people would be thoroughly equipped to minister; **TP**-To nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry; **PH**-That Christians might be properly equipped for their service; **NTE**-Give God's people the equipment they need for their work of service
 - 2. Who does the work of the ministry? When people think about ministry most think about church leadership being in ministry and the work of the ministry being their job, but according to this verse who does it?
 - B. Ministry is serving
 - 1. Serving-The act of waiting on or serving as a servant, a waiter at a table; Given in charity or aid;
 - 2. Ministry and serving are the same word-**Acts6:1**-When the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration (service, minister, administer, aid). ²Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve (service, minister, administer) tables. ³Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. ⁴But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry (service, minister, administer) of the word
 - C. Every believer has a ministry-Things God's called them to do in service of Him and people-**I have a ministry**
 - 1. People think they aren't in ministry-Ministry is serving so we're all in ministry b/c we are all called to serve
 - a. **Col3:24**-For ye serve the Lord Christ; **1Pt2:16**-As the servants of God; **Ep6:6**-Servants of Christ; **Rm6:22**-Servants to God; **Gal5:13**-By love serve one another
 - 2. We've been charged by Jesus to serve-This isn't about feet washing
 - a. **Jn13:14-15**-If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.
 - D. Preachers aren't the only ones in ministry-We must renew our mind because this has been a stumbling block for the much of the body of Christ: A large number of Christians look at leaders of churches like ministry is the business of the church leaders and not their business; In turn you large number of believers who give no thought to the work of the ministry and small percentage of believers endeavoring to do all the work of the ministry (Most think it's preachers job to do all the work of ministry)
 - 1. **Acts6:5**-They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost...⁸And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.
 - 2. Stephen-He was not a 5-fold ministry gift; His ministry was to make sure widows got their food and yet he was a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost and he did great wonders and miracles among the people
 - E. I need to be perfected because I have a ministry-This is one of the main reasons you need to be perfected is

II. To do the work of the ministry means that God wants to work through YOU and minister to someone else

- A. God wants us use me: Stir your faith

1. **2Cor1:3**-The God of all comfort; Who comforts us in all our tribulation that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble
2. **Mk16:17**-These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover
3. **Eph4:29**-Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying that it may minister grace to the hearers

B. Blessed to be a blessing-God's plan has always been to bless His people to be a blessing

1. **Gn1:28**-God blessed them and said unto them be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth-**Gn9:1**-God blessed Noah and his sons and said unto them be fruitful and multiply and replenish the Earth-**Gn12:2**-I will bless you and make your name great and you will be a blessing; **Lk24:51**-It came to pass while he blessed them he was departed from them and carried up into Heaven; **2Co9:8**-God is able to make all grace abound towards you; that you always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work
2. You need to be blessed-What can you do depressed, fearful, weak, poor, sick – That's why the enemy wants you cursed because it compromises your ability to bless
 - a. **Rm15:1**-We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak
 - b. Many don't believe in being greatly blessed and then try to be a great blessing and it won't work

C. Nothing like being used of God-There's no other feeling on the planet than to know you were used by God to minister to someone else and when it happens you just want more of it

III. **Every believer is a vessel-He wants to put things in for the purpose of distribution-1Co6:19,2Co4:7,1Pt3:7**

- **2Tim2:19-21**-Let every one that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity (moral wrongfulness in character, life, act). But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; some to honor and some to dishonor. If a man purge himself from these he shall be a vessel (something containing, container) unto honor, sanctified and meet for the masters use and prepared unto every good work

A. In God's house there are vessels-The body of Christ collectively is the house of the Lord and

1. **Hb3:6**-Christ as a son over his own house; whose house we are; **1Pt2:5**-You, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house; **Ep2:20-ER**-You believers are like a building that God owns...The whole building is joined together in Christ, and he makes it grow and become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Christ you are being built together with his other people. You are being made into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

B. Vessles administer-Administer is where ministry comes from it means to give, to dispense

1. Acts6-There was the ministry of bringing widows food; There was the ministry of bringing people the Word; One was food, one was the word, but both are ministry

C. God wants to deposit good things into you that you can (ad)minister to other people-He wants to put things in me so that He can pour out to others what He's poured into me

1. God wants to use you and work through you-Meet for the masters you; prepared unto every good work
2. Jesus was a vessel, God worked through Him-**Jn14:10**-The Father that dwells in me, He does the works

D. In God's house there are different kinds of vessels

1. Depart from iniquity-Does God expect every believer no matter the level of maturity depart from iniquity?
 - a. **AMP**-Withdraw from wrong doing – 1.The word is right 2.I'm doing is wrong 3. I want to do what is right
2. All vessels are not the same-God loves every vessel, but there are some to honor, some to dishonor; Some are more useful to God and in turn they are more valuable to Him b/c he can pour through them to a degree he can't in others – **ER**-Some are used for special purposes, others for ordinary jobs

- a. Everyone can be a vessel of honor if they'll engage the departing/purging/perfecting process
- 3. Why purge (Clean thoroughly, separate from impure)-It doesn't matter how delicious the lemonade is and if I put it in gas can to administer to you, it's not going help you or bless you; God could put something amazing in you, but if you're not purged by the time it gets out of you, it'll do nothing for the person you're ministering to – Your cleanliness determines your usefulness
 - a. Jn14:12-When Jesus goes to the Father, the Holy Spirit is going to come in a live in you and then you have been endued with power from on high but without perfecting and purging the flow will be limited
- 4. You can be not useful to the master, not ready for him go flow through you in good works
 - a. **2Tm2:21-AM**-*If any cleanses himself from these things [which are dishonorable - disobedient, sinful], he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified [set apart for special purpose and], useful to the Master, prepared for every good work*
 - b. What if you're not cleansed from those things? Then you're not useful to the Master
- 5. You want to depart from iniquity, purge yourself and be perfected so that you can be used
 - a. The enemy wants to contaminate to the church just enough so that God can't do anything powerful through it (Many are allowing things to go on in the church in the name of love)-**Gal5:9**-*A little leaven*
 - b. The enemy tries to insert a little leaven telling you it's no big deal; The danger is not just sin or yielding to the flesh the danger is in the acceptance of it
 - c. Many are asking can I get away with doing that, when they should be asking does it affect the flow?- 1Cor10:23; The more like the world you are, the less useful you are-Gal6:14
- 6. Loved or used-You don't have to do anything to be loved by God; It's different story to be used by God

IV. God has sent you into the earth in service of him to accomplish things for Him

- A. We are ambassadors for Christ-A sent one, acting as a representative of the one who sent you
 - 1. **2Cor5:17**-*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled (restore to favor and friendship after estrangement) us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*
 - a. God has given you the ministry of reconciliation to administer to others
 - 2. Ambassador-One sent, possibly into a foreign land, to represent the King/government that sent Him and to dispense (administer, manage, govern) what He gave you in his behalf
- B. We've been sent into the Earth
 - 1. We are not of the world-**Jn17:14**-*They are not of the world even as I am not of the world*
 - 2. Our citizenship is in Heaven-**Ph3:21-CEV**-*We are citizens of heaven*
 - 3. Sent like Jesus-**Jn17:18**-*As you have sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world*
- C. Fulfillment in life can come no other way than to do the will of him that sent you and finish his work**Jn4:34**-*My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work*
 - 1. The biggest thing in your life is finding out what God sent you to do it and getting at it
 - 2. Time goes so quickly-**Ps90:12**-*Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom*

3. Rewards-**Col3:24**-*Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ;*