

## IS CHURCH MINISTRY RELEVANT? Colossians 1:23-25

**Ministry** – To serve, to serve as a slave, to voluntarily attend to others.

**The Church** – The church is mentioned as many things in the scriptures: a mob of people, a local assembly of believers, the body of Christ, the universal group of believers, the Bride of Christ, no matter where it is mentioned in the scriptures, it is always referring to people who believe in Christ.

### BIBLE BASED MINISTRY

**Matthew 16:13-18** The tendency for churches is to determine for themselves what type of ministry they'll have. The church doesn't belong to us, Jesus Christ determines what church ministry should be.

**Matthew 22:37-39** Christ's church has biblical mandates from Jesus that we are to follow and implement. First, bible based ministry is all about loving God and others and putting Him first.

**Matthew 28:19-20** Secondly, church ministry can be defined in terms of the great commission of Christ; witness to all people, preach the gospel and teach things pertaining to Godliness to all.

**Ephesians 4:12-15** Thirdly, the objective of church ministry should be to equip the members of the local assembly by teaching and encouraging them to grow and to serve Christ and serve others.

### BIBLICAL CHURCH MINISTRY

**A. Acts 2:42a; II Tim. 4:2; I Cor. 1:23** *The teaching and preaching of God's word.* The expository teaching of bible doctrine and the preaching of the word of God, along with its proper application to believers is fundamental to the spiritual growth and development of God's people.

**Acts 20:27; Eph. 4:7-16** It is not only the responsibility of the pastor and teachers to help grow believers into spiritual maturity but it is the responsibility of all believers to become teachable.

**B. Acts 2:42d; Phil. 4:6; I Thess. 5:17** *The ministry of prayer.* An active and dynamic prayer life is vital toward the growth and stability of each believer as well as the church as a whole. Prayer should be constant, diverse, and fervent with details of thankfulness, worship and interceding prayer for others.

**C. Acts 2:42c** *The ministry of worship.* The church as a whole and believers individually are to express our awe and thankfulness to God for who He is and what He has done for us. We worship in praise, honor, singing, prayer, reading, giving, studying and preaching the word of God.

**I Corinthians 11:23-29** The Lord's supper is central for worship to the believer and the congregation as a whole because it symbolizes the very basis for our salvation and our existence as a church body.

**D. Acts 2:47; Romans 10:13-15; II Cor. 5:19-21** *The ministry of reconciliation to the lost.* Practical Christian ministry not only cares for each other but we are commanded to reach the lost people of the world and witness to them the Gospel of Christ. We also bathe our witness with prayer for the lost.

**I Corinthians 15:1-4; II Corinthians 8:1-2; Phil. 4:14-17** Church leaders should encourage and provide training in witnessing and reaching the lost. Also, we are encouraged as believers to help win the lost by sending missionaries and supporting them with prayer, encouragement and finances.

**E. I Corinthians 12:25-26; I John 1:7** *The ministry of believers fellowship.* Our common bond in Christ is the source that causes unity. When we are bonded together we provide strength, help, prayer and encouragement to each other and are stronger as a unit than we are individually.

**I Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-14; I Peter 4:10** Church ministry is a task for which every believer has been called. If each individual would learn their gift and exercise that gift while they minister to the body like they should their local assembly would be more spiritual, would be growing in the Lord and He would be able to bring that church to a much higher level of service and usefulness to God.