

## OUR MINISTRY WITH GOD

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

### ❖ As Christians We Have the MINISTRY of SERVICE.

*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. <sup>4</sup>Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup>If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

Romans 12:3-8 (NIV)

#### 1. Every member of the family of God has SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIV)

#### 2. Every spiritual gift has an IMPORTANT PURPOSE in God's Church.

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...*

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

#### 3. Christians that don't use their spiritual gifts LET DOWN God and His church.

*A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.*

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

### ❖ As Christians We are Called to Live Out a MINISTRY of LOVE.

*Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

Romans 12:9-13 (NIV)

#### 1. Our ministry as a Christian is easily stated as: LOVE GOD... LOVE PEOPLE.

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Luke 10:27 (NIV)

2. Our ministry as a church is to always put OTHER PEOPLE first.  
*Honor one another above yourselves.*

Romans 12:10b (NIV)

*So in everything you do, do unto others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

3. Our love is expressed to others in MANY different WAYS.  
*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

Romans 12:12-13 (NIV)

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. <sup>17</sup>If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? <sup>18</sup>Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*

1 John 3:16-18 (NIV)

- ❖ As Christians We are Called to Live Out the MINISTRY of HUMILITY.

*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Romans 12:14-21 (NIV)