

Member Means Minister

What is the secret to greatness?

- Wall Street = money
- Washington DC = power
- Hollywood = fame
- Matthew 20:26, “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.”
- Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

MATURITY TEST

- Immature—“How can this church meet my needs?”
- Mature—“How can I be used to meet the needs of this church?”
- When you serve the needs of others, God takes care of your needs. Luke 6:38, “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Ephesians 4:1-16

A first grade teacher asked her students, “What do you do to help at home?” One little girl answered, “I dry the dishes.” One little boy said, “I feed the dog.” Another answered, “I sweep the floor.” “Danny what do you do?” the teacher asked. Danny replied, “I stay out of the way!”

GALLOP POLL

- Only 10% of church members are active in any kind of personal ministry in their church.
- 50% of church members said they have no interest in any ministry in their church.

ONE (BODY, FAITH, BAPTISM, GOD, FATHER)

- Woe to the one who causes division in Christ’s body!
- We must treasure, defend, protect and help Christ’s one body, the church!

GOD INVITES US TO MINISTER TO OTHERS

- God created everything with a purpose
- You have a purpose in Christ’s body
- Bees make honey. Birds fly and sing. Cows give milk. Fish swim and taste delicious. Tigers win championships! You were created to minister to others.
- There are not a handful of ministers in this church, but hundreds!

GOD ENABLES US TO MINISTER TO OTHERS

- Saved by grace
- The grace that saved you, also enables you to minister to others

- 1 Peter 4:10, “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”
- **Minister—servant—Latin: minus = one of lesser rank**

GOD EQUIPS US TO MINISTER TO OTHERS

- Job descriptions
 - Pastor—equip, train & prepare saints for the work of ministry
 - Members—work of ministry
- The way a pastor serves the church properly is by equipping the member to do the work of ministry.
- If the pastors do the ministry of the church, we won’t be properly serving the body. We will be crippling you!
- Things never found in the New Testament:
 - Committees
 - Majority rule
 - Board
 - Parliamentary Procedure
 - Business meetings
 - These are secular ideas that cause the church to be bogged down in bureaucracy.
- God calls pastors to lead. God calls members to minister.
- When the pastors minister, the members lead, causing confusion and frustration.
- When the pastors lead, the members minister, resulting in healthy growth.

GOD EMPOWERS US TO SERVE OTHERS (4:7-8)

- Every Christian is gifted
- Gifts must be opened and used to benefit
- Must have a servant heart (3:1; 4:1)
- Rick Warren, “It is not how long you live that matters. It is the donation of the your life that counts.”
- At Cornerstone Church, we have an infinite number of places for you to serve, to teach and to lead.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- We need you to get involved in ministry. God needs you. We need you. A lost and hurting world needs you.
- No one human being knows enough to make one simple lead pencil!
 - Somebody must mine the graphite
 - Another must process the wood
 - Somebody else must know how to produce the rubber
 - Another must manufacture paint
 - It all must be put together, marketed, distributed and sold
- You need to ask God to:
 - Give you a servant’s heart
 - Direct you to where (not if) he wants you to minister

Member Means Minister

What is the secret to greatness?

- Read and discuss Matthew 20:26
- Read and discuss Mark 10:45

Maturity Test: Are you more likely to ask, “What can this church do for me?” or “How can I be used to meet the needs of this church?”

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

- What does it mean to you that there is one body, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all?
- How serious do you believe it is to cause division in Christ’s body?
- How should we treat Christ’s body?
- What is your ministry?
- Why don’t people use the gifts that God gave them?
- Minister come from a Latin word meaning “minus.” What does this suggest?
- According to verses 11-12, what is the job description for a pastor?
- What is expected of the saints (members)?
- How many ministers are there in any given church?