
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES
Institute in the Foundations of Church Leadership
ITEM Ministries

THE ROLE OF THE PASTOR

Intro:

- A. Rom. 1:1, Paul was “called” to be an apostle.
- B. Paul was “set apart” for the gospel ministry
- C. This hour – OUR call to be pastors, preachers of God’s Word.

I. The Call of Paul

- A. Paul knew that he was chosen (called) by God to preach the Word
- B. Key verses
 - 1. Acts 9:15 “chosen”
 - 2. Acts 13:2 Paul and Barnabas were “called”
 - 3. Galatians 1:1 “sent from God”
 - 4. Galatians 1:15-16 “called”
 - 5. 2 Timothy 1:11 “appointed”

Transition: Being “called”, “chosen”, “appointed”, “sent”, by God didn’t begin with Paul

II. The Call of Others in the Bible

- A. Paul was not the only one that was called by God into ministry
- B. Others who were called by God:
 - Moses – Ex. 3:1-10
 - Jeremiah – Jer. 1:4-9
 - Isaiah 6

Illustration: How I was called (personal testimony) – Col. 1:24-25

- This was important – later in ministry – told “shouldn’t be pastor”

Apply: What about YOU? Have you been called? Chosen by God to preach God’s Word and shepherd God’s people?

Transition: If you answered those questions “yes” then let’s consider what the “calling of God” involves.

III. The Details of the Preacher’s Call (1 Cor. 4:1-5)

- A. Preachers are to be servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God (1Cor.4:1-2)
- B. Let’s first think about what it means to be a “servant of Christ”
 - 1. Key verses:

- 1 Pet. 5:1-3 Not lording it over them
 - 2 Cor. 6:4 Servants of God
 - 2 Cor. 4:5 Bond-servant of those we lead
2. The meaning of the word “servant”
- a. Servant = two words; *huper* means under and *eresso* means to row
Therefore, servant means “under rower”
 - b. Key Verses
 - Matthew 19:30 “first is last”
 - Mark 9:35 “if first, then a servant”

Apply:

- This is part of our call as pastors.
- NOT bosses, NOT lords, BUT servants of others
- A servant helps makes others successful; meets their needs
 - c. Summary is given in Mark 10:43-45

Transition: We are also called to be stewards of “God’s mysteries”

C. Let’s consider what it means to be a “steward of the mysteries of God.”

- 1. “Mystery” in the Bible has a different meaning
 - Narrow: A defined as the “secrets of God”
 - Broader: The Christian message.
 - Very general meaning: God’s Word, the Bible.

Transition: Next it says we are “stewards of God’s message.”

- 2. What is a “steward”
 - a. A manager is one who cared for someone else’s possessions
 - b. Usually a slave who “managed other slaves.”
- 3. We are slaves who have been entrusted with the message of God’s Word

Illustration: A steward is like a waiter rather the cooks. (Explain)

More verses:

- Eph. 3:2 (stewardship)
- Ga. 2:7 (entrusted)
- 1 Cor. 9:16 (not a volunteer: it’s a stewardship); Not for money

Transition:

- Are we called by God? If so...
- We are called to be servants of God, to be servants of people in our Churches.
- We are called to be stewards, caretakers, and managers of God’s Word.

4. The characteristics of a good steward of God's Word
 - a. 1 Cor. 4:2 ...Be faithful
 - b. 2 Tim. 2:15 Be diligent
2 Tim. 2:15 Rightly divide
 - c. Acts 20:20 House to house
 - d. Acts 20:27 The whole counsel of God
 - e. Be accurate, study within the context
 - f. Learn the Bible
 - g. Teach your people what God says NOT what man thinks
 - h. 1 Tim. 4:13, 16 Teach and preach
 - i. 1 Tim. 5:17 Preach and teach
 - j. 2 Tim. 4:1-2 Preach the Word

Transition: We are called to be servants and stewards. Now the third part of our call is this.

D. We are called to be examples

- We will cover this more in our next sessions but let me introduce it here. 1Tim. 3:1ff
1. People need examples. They want our lives to match our words. (Heb. 13:7)
 2. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. (Matt.23) Explain
 3. Paul also condemned the Jews for their hypocrisy. (Rom. 2:21-24)
 4. James 3:1 Stricter judgment.

Transition: We'll have more to say about this next time.

Conclusion:

- A. What have we seen about being a pastor?
 1. It is a calling. It is for those whom God has appointed.
 2. One is called to be a preacher.
 - If we are not sure we are called by God to be pastors, when things get difficult we will have doubts about continuing on.
 - But when we know that God has called us, then we can endure when things are difficult.

- B. Once we determine that we are called by God, then we must ask, “What am I called to do?”
1. Preachers are servants of God and Stewards of God’s Mysteries
 - We are called to be servants of Christ.
 - As servants, we are to remain faithful no matter how difficult it might become.
 - Gal. 4:9 has been a real encouragement to me.
 - We are called to be stewards/caretakers of God’s holy Word.
 - a. Stewards study diligently
 - b. Stewards interpret it accurately in the context
 - c. Stewards preach it and teach it faithfully
 2. Preachers are called to be examples.
 - a. People need examples that they can watch and follow.
 - b. Telling people how to live by God’s Word is important but showing them how is more important.

That is the preacher’s call.