

Bible Study Wheat Street Baptist Church, Dr. Ralph Watkins, Senior Pastor

July 19, 2017; 6:00pm

Minister Carla Burnett, Facilitator

Title → Our Calling

Introduction

Ministry is the apex, the ultimate outcome of the church's life. All else the church does points to this outcome. Without ministry, church life becomes navel-gazing, that is useless and self indulgent. We get caught up in ourselves: we build little kingdoms at the corner of such and such. The maintenance of the building and the feeding of the flock within the walls become the sum total of our endeavors.

Ministry however in its proper context takes us out of ourselves and into a hurting world. When Jesus gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, He did not exempt anyone. He did not qualify the "go ye" by saying except for the extremely busy, or the ill prepared, or the elderly or the immature; Jesus simply said "go"!

Likewise, The Apostle Paul picked up the same theme by adding that "God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him (1Cor12:18). Each member of the body of Christ is gifted for service.

Not only are we all called to serve, but we are called to minister. Many members are content with being spectator Christians, giving critical reviews of the worship services and church activities. This consumerism mentality is directly opposed to Christ's self-giving nature.

We are called to put on the new nature (seeking His kingdom) and to put off the old (self seeking) nature. We are called to Minister!

Outline

I. Our Calling

- Read John 3:22-28
- How can a sense of calling help you focus on your task rather than someone else's.

II. We Are Called Through Relationship

- Read John 15:4-9(what are the implications of being a branch attached to a vine)

