

Christians are prepared for leadership in the church, called to leadership by the Lord, and recognized for that leadership through their service to the church and in the world.

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Sermon Notes

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How to Become a Christian

Many people believe they are Christians because they were born in a Christian culture, go to church regularly, try to do their best, or live a good life. However, the Bible teaches that these things cannot make you a Christian. You become a Christian by simply taking these two steps:

- Acknowledge that you (along with all people) have sinned and fallen short of God's standards. ROMANS 3:23
- Personally believe that Jesus Christ, who was God in human flesh, died for your sins on the cross and rose again. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3, 4

You may express your belief through prayer, asking Jesus to come into your life, and receiving Him as God's gift to you.

JOHN 1:12, ROMANS 6:23, REVELATION 3:20

"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith...it is the gift of God; not by works, so that no one can boast." EPHESIANS 2:8, 9 (NIV)

Family Values Training Leaders for Ministry

The church must not only help people mature in their relationship with God, but also raise up and train leaders for the ministry.

Preparing People to Live _____ for the Lord

Making Disciples

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIVO) *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

- Instill _____
- Grow in _____
- Awaken a heart for _____ (Acts 1:8)

We teach Christians maturity through obedience.

Preparing People to Live _____ in the Church Family

Living as *the Body*: Life in the Local and Diverse Church

Ephesians 2:13-19 (NIVO) *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in*

this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. ¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,

- All human hostility and divisions are _____ by God's reconciliation in Christ.
- Relational peace in the church is _____ through Christ's death.
- The Church is _____ for the display of human unity under God.

We help Christians understand and function as members of The Church.

Preparing People to Live _____ in Service

Investing in Faithful People

2 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV) You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- Paul speaks and teaches biblical truth 1st Person
- Timothy hears it and puts in to practice 2nd Person
- Timothy then entrusts it to others 3rd Person
- Those "others" do the same for even more "others" 4th & 5th Persons

We entrust biblical truth, especially to the faithful and teachable, who are ready to take it to others.

Equipping People for the Works of Ministry

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIVO) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

- All Christians are to _____ in the "works of service" – the ministry. (Ephesians 2:10)
- Some are gifted and called to _____ Christians for the ministry.
- The ministry _____ maturity and unity in the church, "the body of Christ."

God uses some people to equip others in the church so that all are involved in the ministry of the church.

Preparing People to Serve _____ in Leadership

Appointing Elders

Titus 1:5 (NIVO) The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

Deploying of Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:6-8 (NIVO) 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. ⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸ 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.

- God _____ leaders in a church for the health of the church.
- God uses a _____ of leadership to govern the church.