

MANDATE FOR MINISTRY 1 PETER 4:7-11

INTRODUCTION:

1. Great Commission
2. This is Peter's Great Commission for ministry
3. 1 Peter 4:7-11

I. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN MINISTRY

- A. Three responsibilities: v.7
 1. Think clearly.
 - A. "Clear-headed" Sober-minded.
 2. Live carefully
 - B. "disciplined" Sober
 3. Pray continually
- B. Notice the process. One must happen before the next. Key "for" or "so that."
- C. The reason for this is because the end is near. For the world or me personally.
- D. All funerals remind of that.
- E. Peter possibly had in mind the way in which , in the Garden of Gethsemane, he failed to pray by falling asleep and was unprepared for temptation.

II. PEOPLE AFFECTED THROUGH MINISTRY

- A. Love v.8
 1. "Above all" - love is more important than anything else.

2. "Keep your love for one another at full strength" - give yourself away.
3. The love of the cross "covers" our sins - a multitude of sins.
4. Love forgives again and again.

B. Hospitality v.9

1. "Be hospitable" Christians would use their homes and minister to those who traveled.
2. "Without complaining"
3. It's easy to complain. Thankless job, stressful.
4. Ill Statement on criticism
 - A. Cicero - "It is the peculiar quality of a fool to perceive the faults of others and to forget his own."
 - B. Those who can, do. Those who can't, become critics.
 - C. Aristotle - "It's easy to avoid criticism: all you have to do is say nothing, do nothing, be nothing."
 - D. Don't criticize your wife's judgment; look who she married.
5. Show hospitality without grumbling.

C. Use of our gifts. V.10

1. Sent by God.
 - A. All believers have been graced by God.
 - B. Your gift has been "received." i.e. it was given to you, not your own creation or choosing.
2. "Serve others" - we minister to one another
3. Stewards of our gifts. "Good managers of the varied grace of

God”

4. Several gifts - “varied”

A. Multi-colored, many sided expressions of the grace of God

B. When our gift is being used, it is an expression of the grace of God.

C. When you minister to others they are touched by the grace of God. It is His touch.

5. In v.10 he gives a generic statement about ministry.

6. In v.11 he divides the gifts into two categories. There are two manifestations of these ministries from God.

A. Speaking ministry

1. Declaration ministry.

2. A person speaks that which is from God.

3. The world would be silent if we applied that.

4. What would happen if everything we spoke we knew God wanted us to speak that word?

B. Serving ministry

1. Deed ministry

2. We should serve by the strength of God not from our own ability.

3. What God calls us to do, He will enable us to do.

III. PURPOSE FOR MINISTRY

A. v.11, “So that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.”

B. Let everything be done for the glory of God. That is the essential word.

C. Peter uses the word “glory” 15 times

D. 2:9, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

E. You are saved not just so you can go to heaven or not just to show His power over the devil but to show His praises.

F. What is your motivation for ministry?

1. Blesses those who receive ministry from us.
2. Good for the one who ministers.
3. Good for the country.
4. Good for the church - stronger, dynamic

G. All of those are good but not the final truth.

H. It is for the glory of God.

I. Why is that important?

1. It's biblical.
2. God will not share His glory with anyone else.
3. It get the focus off the giver and receiver of ministry and on to God.
4. When others don't affirm your ministry, it won't bother you because you know your doing it for His glory. If God is glorified what difference does it make.

5. It will produce a sweetness and joy that nothing else will. If you're doing it for any other reason you will lose your joy.

He is not honored by a ministry that is sad or cynical. "I don't want to do this, but I signed up to do it, so I guess I'll have to do it."

Fred Luter - "Get to vs. Got to" attitude.

6. It will allow God to bless our ministries in ways He hasn't been able to before. He is under no obligation to bless me in my flesh. He will bless His own name.

7. It will eliminate all competition in ministry. There is too much of that today.

If we are only serving Him, how can we be in competition?

We need to encourage our fellow Christians in other churches

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus said in John 8:29 "I always do what pleases Him."
2. Is what you are doing and your attitude about it pleasing to the Father?
3. This is our mandate for ministry.