

Sermon: Let the Laity “Move Up”

Text: [I Peter 2:4-5, 9-10 ESV](#)

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Introduction: “Ministry is an act of loving service given in Jesus’ name.”

In the past the tendency has been to make “ministry” very high, mystical, almost unattainable, but ministry is simply doing anything for the glory of God. It is doing anything that helps promote Jesus and His Kingdom.

In our text this morning we see:

1. Lifting of _____ to use gifts for ministry.
2. Spiritual _____ will never be fully realized until we use our gifts.
3. Success is only possible if _____ member has a ministry.
4. Needs will never be met without the _____.
5. God is _____ without laity (ministry) commitment.
6. Church is _____ without everyone using his/her gifts.
7. Every Christian has a _____ and is expected to use it.
8. Using your gifts _____ God.
9. Not using your gifts _____ God.
10. Using your gift for ministry, _____ to God.

You remember the [Matthew 25](#): passage where it reads: ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’

Conclusion: It is time the church here in Weston stop just surviving and start actively doing ministry in Jesus’ name and thriving! We need everyone on board with this biblical idea and give the mission of the Church our highest priority! Amen

[I Peter 2:4-5, 9-10 ESV](#) ⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Verse 5 is about the community of believers (*stones being put together*). C.E.B. Cranfield writes: “the free-lance Christian, who would be a Christian but is too superior to belong to the visible Church upon the earth in one of its forms, is simply a contradiction in terms.”

The text continues at verse 9:

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Peter uses six terms to describe the followers of Jesus. You can underline these.

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| 1. living stones | 2. holy priesthood |
| 3. chosen race (people) | 4. a royal priesthood |
| 5. holy nation | 6. a people God possesses |