

EQUIPPED FOR WORKS OF SERVICE

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TOPIC: Developing a model for identification of opportunities to serve in daily life (especially with a view to laity development in the congregation).

1. In order for us to BE the Priesthood of Believers serving God and humanity, we must develop paradigms that enable and empower such thinking and living. To influence the development of our paradigms, we must:
 - a. Know, embrace and practice the freeing POWER of the Gospel in every arena of life and in every field of work! Its emphasis on *inclusiveness* more than *exclusiveness* is critical.
 - b. Have a personal relationship with Jesus that is centered in serving others—especially through our fields of work!
 - c. Know how to live-out our NEW Nature— in the world!
 - d. Have a fuller understanding and affirmation of Jesus' Lordship over every dimension of life – including our fields of work - and his mission for all of creation.
 - e. Understand ministry as the privilege and responsibility of every one of God's people.
 - f. Understand calling and its meaning for every follower of Christ.
 - g. Have a biblical understanding of work!
 - h. Choose to *Intentionally* BE God's presence in our work as the Priesthood of Believers!
 - i. Know our unique and irreplaceable giftedness and purpose in life - especially from a vocational perspective!
 - j. Understand the criticality of authentic and transparent RELATIONSHIPS as the springboard for witnessing (both word and deed) in every place and at all times – but especially in the world!

When we are functioning from these kinds of paradigms, *opportunities* for service in our daily lives literally explode! With these paradigms, at no time in our life will there NOT be an opportunity to serve!

The church plays a critical role in paradigm formation!

2. The church can especially enable and empower the development of paradigms that promote behaviors of service in her people by:
 - a. Being in the world herself and not a recluse from the world (congregations place a major emphasis on personally ministering in and to the world and the communities in which they reside)!
 - b. Help her people identify their individual callings and irreplaceable giftedness!
 - c. Give visible, ritualistic confirmation and affirmation of vocational ministry!
 - d. Help empower and enable her people by freeing and training them to personally hear and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit!
 - i. Must change attitudes from finding all biblical communication through church centered study and activities to encouraging, private and personal prayer, meditation and study (i.e., interactive bible study and meditation – especially from the perspective of their work). The church must still teach the truth and train people in “correct” understanding of scriptures. However, do not let you or the church replace the voice and leading of the Spirit in their lives during the week.
 - ii. Must learn how to obtain concrete direction and guidance from the Spirit for their work through the study and application of Scriptures.
 - e. Establish support systems that empower and enable your people's ministries in the world! (i.e., especially prayer!)

The LIFE JOURNEY MINISTRIES Process:

3. Life Journey Ministries™ especially works to be an agent of change, teaching people to understand their daily work as a place for meeting, worshiping and co-creating with God; and a place to realize more of who and what they are made to become as God's people in the world.
 - a. Motto: “Sunday People in a Monday World!”
 - b. Our basic philosophy: Your fields of work ARE your ministry!
 - c. Goal: “Let faith transform you AND your work!”
 - d. Our over-riding objectives are to operate cross-denominationally so *through our various fields of work* Christian women in particular can:
 - i. Develop deeper dialogue and relationship with God;
 - ii. Intentionally participate in God's care of the world;
 - iii. Employ their faith to transform their work;

- iv. Clarify each person's distinctive God-given purpose and be further empowered to perform their irreplaceable contribution in life;
- v. Help others meet and experience God!
- e. There are three major components to our ministry model:
 - i. **Training and Education** – on-line courses, regional workshops, retreats, and conferences. We focus on helping people in such areas as:
 - 1. Truly understanding, believing, and practicing the whole gospel!
 - 2. Their Call – what is the Call, why it is, how it works! This includes clarifying their unique purpose and giftedness. (Life is your training field!)
 - 3. Identifying and addressing personal barriers or fears that inhibit their ability to respond to the call AND stay faithful to the call over time! (Changing their understanding of adversity and addressing their fears!)
 - 4. Developing authentic and transparent relationship skills for living and being God's gospel-filled presence in all of their fields or arenas of work.
 - 5. Facilitator training and certification.
 - ii. **Hardcopy and Electronic Resources:**
 - 1. Devotionals with a work perspective
 - 2. Small Peer Group meditative Bible Studies with a work perspective
 - 3. Articles
 - 4. E-books
 - 5. Affiliation with Market Place Leaders
 - 6. Newsletters
 - iii. **Prayer and Bible Study Peer Support Systems:**
 - 1. Small peer groups that meet locally or on-line.
 - 2. Prayer and systems of prayer support is CRITICAL!
 - a. Individual
 - b. Group

In summary, there is a wide variety of issues, topics and needs that make up this work of developing the laity for service in life as the Priesthood of Believers. On the biblical and theological front there is a cluster of core issues that need revisiting, renewed treatment and study, and wide teaching. These include (but are not limited to) the following:

- A biblical and theological understanding of work.
- The priesthood of every believer.
- A review of calling and its meaning for every follower of Christ.
- The nature and practice of witness or evangelism, by every believer, in every place and at all times in both word and deed.
- The nature of the church and its gathered on Sunday and scattered Monday through Saturday reality as the people of God, rather than as one more institution struggling for loyalty and resources.
- A fuller understanding and affirmation of Jesus' Lordship over and centrality to every dimension of life and all of creation.
- A recovery of the ministry as the privilege and responsibility of every one of God's people.
- A clarification and more in-depth understanding of what it means to be IN the world, but not OF the world – especially with a work perspective!
- The radical and pervasive realities of sin and evil impacting every dimension of God's creation, all people and every structure; and, the Gospel as the power of God for salvation! This is key to the church being salt, light and leaven in its witness to biblical justice.

For further information, please go to www.lifejourneyministries.org

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