

The Ministry of the Lord

FIVE MINISTRIES LIKE FIVE SENSES

To discern how God uses each ministry, we must look at the EFFECT they have on us. Only God can direct that.
EPH 4:11-13

A TRUE EVANGELIST: serves as the sense of smell in the Body of Christ. However he ministers, his effect on us is to stimulate our spiritual sense of smell. He makes us aware of our needs. When we smell the good food of the word of God, the Rose of Sharon, or the Lily of the Valley (Jesus) it stirs us and lifts our spirits. We change our minds and begin considering taking the time to change our direction, and pay the price. He is an advertisement for Jesus.

2 TI 4:5

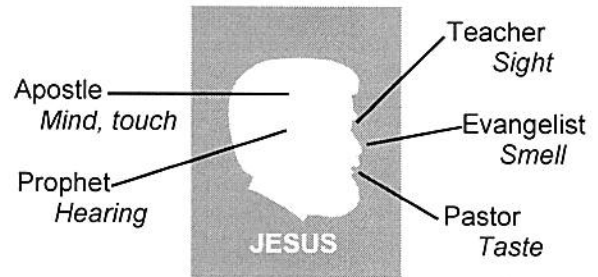
A TRUE PASTOR: serves as the sense of taste in the Body of Christ. However he ministers, his effect on us is to "taste and see that the Lord is good" to the point that we swallow it, and it gets into our hearts. The pastor is the only one of the five ministries that needs to stay in one place for the sake of the people. He is the one that must have a good reputation in the local community, for he is the most visible to the general public. As a true shepherd, he must manage the flock to nourish and protect them. The other four ministries must accept his God-given authority in that local area and not usurp it. The pastor must be strong enough to stand alone, and wise enough not to. JER 3:15

A TRUE TEACHER: serves as the sense of sight to the Body. However he ministers, his effect on us is that the eyes of our understanding are enlightened, and we see things of God and the world more clearly.
ISA 30:20

A TRUE PROPHET: serves as the sense of hearing to the Body. However he ministers, his effect on us is to stimulate our hearing so we can hear what God's Spirit is saying to the whole church or to us as individuals.
NEH 9:30

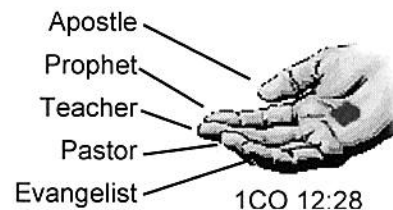
A TRUE APOSTLE: serves as the sense of touch in the Body of Christ. However he ministers, his effect on us makes us aware of one another in the whole body as joint members. We suffer together, we rejoice together, we grow together. His gift stimulates our care for one another as for ourselves. The apostle can fill in for the other four ministries, but he is not as effective. His gift works to keep a balance according to the mind of Christ.
1 CO 2:16
2 CO 11:29

FIVE SENSES (MINISTRY) ARE IN HEAD



GOD'S ARM, HAND, PALM AND FINGERS

His arm and hand is Jesus, his fingers are the ministry
JOH 12:37, 38 arm
ISA 59:1 hand
ISA 49:16 palm
PRO 7:2-5 bind on fingers
SON 5:5 hands & fingers drop with myrrh on lock



The Apostle is the lowest of the fingers, but strongest and can touch the base of the other four.

The Prophet is between the Apostle and the Teacher and is the universal pointing finger.

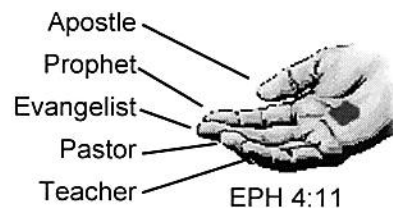
The Teacher is the longest (more pride than the others) and works best between the Prophet and the Pastor.

The Pastor has the largest supply of blood from the heart and works best between the Teacher and the Evangelist.

The Evangelist is on the outside of the hand like the Apostle, and is lower than the central three, but not as low as the Apostle.

When all the fingers work together to hold things close to the Palm, nothing will slip through the fingers.

ANOTHER WAY TO LOOK AT THEM:



In this view, the Evangelist and the Teacher have exchanged places. The Evangelist would then be the longest because he reaches out further to grasp people. The teacher would be the smallest because God has to humble him more than the others for him to be effective in his ministry.

The Ministry of the Lord

FIVE WEAKNESSES OF THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY

No ministry is complete by itself. All are dependant on the others. God has made it so. However, each ministry knows how God uses them so they each try to solve all problems through their own ministries. Each ministry needs to know when to stop, and make room for the others.

Weaknesses in the Evangelist: He is oriented more toward the people than toward God. This is necessary because God shows him their needs. However he cannot feed like the Pastor, enlighten as the Teacher, hear God like the Prophet or know the mind of God as the Apostle. He needs them all, himself.

He also needs other evangelists to minister to him in those areas that his gift does not stimulate his own hunger. He needs to learn when to stop evangelizing.

Weaknesses in the Pastor: He is also oriented more toward the people than toward God. God equips him to shepherd sheep that have like common experiences as he has had. This builds understanding and trust. It also limits him from successfully pastoring all of God's sheep. He may feel some sheep cannot make it under another shepherd if they cannot make it under him. He needs to learn when to stop pastoring.

Weaknesses in the Teacher: He is focused more on God than on the people. This is necessary, because he knows that the seeds he carries will produce a wonderful harvest. He doesn't know the condition of the ground, or the season like the Pastor does. But the teacher needs to learn that his gift is limited also. God only gives him authority to teach a few subjects, rather than every subject. He can teach other things also, but only on the same level as the other four ministries. Therefore, he cannot teach himself, or everyone else, everything. Since teaching does not solve all problems, teachers need to learn when to quit teaching.

Weaknesses in the Prophet: Like the teacher, he is focused on God rather than the people. The prophet's gift does not always reveal the perfect will of God. Agabus told Paul he would be arrested in Jerusalem and taken to Rome, but Paul knew that God wanted him there (Acts 21:10-13; Acts 23:11). The prophet also needs the other four ministries so he can develop and grow up into Christ in all things. He needs to learn to be in submission to them.

Weaknesses in the Apostle: He is focused on both God and the people, so he can keep a balance for the rest. However, he is limited to who God sends him to. His authority covers all the ministries within his measure, but he needs the other four ministries for his own spiritual needs also. He is not to be a lord over the ministry or the saints, but to be a servant, considering himself lower than all others - it's the only way to wash their feet. He must work to be invisible and work himself out of his job. Paul felt the apostles were last.

FALSE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRIES

ISA 14:13, 14
PHP 3:18:19
PRO 25:14

A FALSE EVANGELIST: "I will ascend into heaven"
ROM 10:6

He exalts himself and sells "pie in the sky". He just excites unlearned people and works them up but never delivers the goods. Money is very important to these fellows, OUR money. False evangelists don't stick around very long because their lives won't measure up if exposed.

A FALSE PASTOR: "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God"

REV 12:1
3 JO 1:9

He creates a position for himself above all the true ministers of God and does not care for the spiritual welfare of the people. He is in it to feed his own belly, for money or for influence. He exercises a false authority and does not build people into Christ.

A FALSE TEACHER: "I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north"

PSA 48:2
2 PE 2:1

He invents and loves his own doctrines to the point that he tries to divide the Body of Christ to gain followers. He is proud, puffed up, knowing nothing of the truth as it is in Christ.

A FALSE PROPHET: "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds"

HEB 12:1
JER 14:14
JER 23:32
LAM 2:14
MAT 7:15
MAT 24:11, 24
1 JO 4:1

A false prophet serves a false God - commonly something in his own spirit that he identifies as the true God. He is not able to recognize that it is just another part of himself.

A FALSE APOSTLE: (SENT ONE) "I will be like the most High"

2 CO 11:13-15
JER 14:14
2 TH 2:4

He sends himself. He labors to form another "body" with members as parts of his own personal vision and purpose. He cannot recognize spiritual members of Christ's body. He cannot feel or share in their suffering or their rejoicing. He actively seeks to take the place of God and Christ in the lives of those who follow him.