



All ministries whether Laity or Clergy are all spiritual work - begins with God. Without a proper relationship to God no one has any hope of realizing success in his or her ministry. He or she must have a call, a mission, and must be obedient, attentive and committed. The pastor should be divinely called to preach and teach the gospel. Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:11 that the Lord has set in the church; *"some apostles, some prophets, some evangelist, and some pastors and teachers"*.

So the New Testament church did have those who were set apart, and sent out as full time ministers of the gospel. Paul himself, one of the all-time great preachers, knew he was called and ordained of God. In 11 of the 13 epistles he wrote, he began with such statements as *"Paul a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, etc."*

The Pastor/minister have a divine mission, To faithfully proclaim Christ, To faithfully teach Christ in every facet of the church, and To develop and establish every believer by teaching and training him, thus building God's Church. and To lead people into a

consciousness of the presence, power, and purpose of God, into an intimate and glorious fellowship.

The Bible tells us that one condition for a proper relationship with God is obedience to his word. Our very salvation is in obedient to God, and if we are to have God's blessing and God's best, now and for eternity, we must be obedient to Him. The Bible offers us many blessing and promises, promises of an abundant life, promises of victory over sin, etc., - but all of these promises are conditional, in that we must be totally committed and obedient to God.

Total committed means the act pledging one's self completely to a cause. Without commitment on the part of pastors and laity, little or no growth can occur in the church, numerically or spiritually. It is important for every member of the church be involved in the work and ministry of the church. Church activities are not for spectators, but for participants. Often time commitment requires sacrifice, requires 100% effort, requires courage, faith, and determination

To fulfill our commitment to God, we must break through the barrier of indifference, of worldliness, of pride. We must break through any obstacle that hinders us in our service to God. We must realize that we have a high and holy calling, to consecrate fully our time, our talent, our treasure, to God and His church. We must be committed and able to say as the apostle Paul said, *"I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith."*

The Lay Organization
Training Sessions
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The Lay Ministries in the Local Church



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Introduction

The involvement of the laity is one of the most important ministries in the local church. It is a serious, God - ordained calling, and is essential to the life of the body of Christ, the Church. Laity represents 90-99 percent of the body of Christ. That fact alone should be empowering and encouraging for those who have ever wondered if they matter in the scheme of church life.

Purpose

The purpose of this training module is to reinforce the significance of lay ministry in it's various forms to the relevancy and vitality of the local church. Not all laity are aware that they are in a sense theologians. Everybody believes something. This training will help the layperson to understand what they believe and to help them to "be prepared to give an answer always to anyone who ask you for a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear".

1 Peter 3:15

Who are the lay people? You are!

Its membership includes trustees, stewards, stewardesses, class leaders, missionary workers, ushers, deaconess, choir members, Sunday school teachers and students, Young People's Department and members of all commissions.

Scripture References

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations".

Matthew 9:36-38

John 15:5

Romans 12: 6-9

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good



The Laity

- The Laity must know they are essential to the life of their local church.
- Your pastoral leaders and your churches would be lost without you. Without you there is no community/No Congregation. Without you the church is a lifeless shell. The measure of the church's success is directly related to how you,

and the lay members of your community, love one another and live out your faith in your daily lives.

- Laity must know that their calling to Christian service (lay ministry) is as legitimate as that of ordained clergy.
- Jesus call was not to a group of ordained clergy. Jesus called fishermen, businessmen, hated tax collectors, mothers, and widows, prostitute's people with faith and people without faith. Jesus call was for everyone to follow Him.
- Laity must willingly embrace their calling and prepare to fulfill it. God shaped you to specifically serve other members of his Body; we call that ministry.
- Be willing to work, to study, a good listener, and stay in touch with the Holy Spirit.
- Our aim is to be Christ-centered and to strengthen the Church.

The membership roll of the Lay Organization should represent the Church. The membership roll of the Church are individuals, and the Church is you. The Lay Organization cannot exist without you. And it is incomplete without you!

No Congregation