

WHO IS A MINISTER?

Introduction

- 1) When someone asks for a “minister,” who do we usually think of?
 - a) The preacher is the primary person that comes to mind for most people
- 2) The Bible use of the word “minister” encompasses much more than this
 - a) In fact, we will learn that all of us are to be “ministers” in the Lord’s service

I) **The Preacher as a Minister**

- A) Instructing brethren in truth (1 Tim. 4:6)
- B) Fulfilling a “ministry” (2 Tim. 4:5)

II) **Other Examples of God’s “Ministers”**

- A) Government (Rom. 13:4, 6)
- B) Angels (Heb. 1:14)

III) **Definition of “minister”**

- A) Gk. *diakoneo* – to be a servant, attendant, to serve, wait upon, minister (cf. 2 Tim. 1:18)
 - 1) “It is service rendered to benefit others the rendering of which one has the capability of doing” (Clinton Hamilton, *Romans*, p. 691)
- B) Gk. *leitourgeo* – to do service...has to do with the fulfillment of an office, the discharge of a function (cf. Heb. 10:11)
- C) Both words are used in Romans 15:25-27 and translated “to minister”; also Hebrews 1:14
 - 1) *Diakoneo* is the word used most often in the New Testament, and is transliterated as “deacon” for those who serve in a special capacity of service in the local church (1 Tim. 3:8-13; Phil. 1:1)

IV) **Jesus – The Perfect Minister**

- A) Service has always been a part of God’s character (Matt. 20:25-28)
- B) Our Lord is the “God of the towel” (Jn. 13:12-17)
- C) To serve our Master, we must be ready and willing to serve others (Matt. 25:34-45)
 - 1) The one who ministers to another in sending a card or providing transportation is just as needed as the one who ministers in preaching the word

V) **All Christians are Ministers**

- A) Some have unique talents/means to serve others well (Rom. 12:4-8; Rom. 16:1)
- B) Our benevolent duty to needy saints (Rom. 15:27; 2 Cor. 8:4; 9:1, 13)
- C) Responsibility to serve others with the abilities we have (1 Pet. 4:7-11)
 - 1) By teaching and ministering we glorify God through Jesus Christ who equips us

VI) **The Work of Ministering**

- A) *Ephesians 4:12* – *all saints* are to be equipped for the work of ministry
 - 1) All should minister to the needs of others (teach, edify, exhort, rebuke, comfort, aid, etc.)
- B) The term “minister” has been wrongly restricted to just certain individuals, when it is a broad term encompassing *everyone* who is a disciple of Christ

Conclusion

Now, if we were to ask for a “minister,” we can look to ourselves, for each of us is a servant of Jesus to minister to one another. The only thing left is...*to the work!!* Will you submit to and obey the Lord Jesus today for the salvation of your soul?