

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Discovering Your Ministry

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Romans 12:1-13

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2074

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) As Christians, we are to be moving toward maturity and finding a place of service.
- b) We sometimes think that God divides people into laity and clergy.
  - i) Clergy refers to those who are the professionals.
  - ii) The laity refers to those who are in the pew.
- c) We are all in the business of serving the Lord.
  - i) God has given to every one of us a ministry.
- d) Romans 12:1
  - i) In the Greek language, “your reasonable service” literally means “your logical ministry.”
    - (1) It is logical that God would put us into the ministry.
- e) Many Christians are floundering in their Christian life.
  - i) They don’t have any true fulfillment.
  - ii) They want to know what it is that God wants them to do.
    - (1) It is time that we discover our ministry, as churches and as individuals.
- f) We’re living in a desperate day.
  - i) Militant atheism is on the march.
    - (1) We need a revival that cannot be explained by philosophy, psychology, promotion or propaganda.
  - ii) Moral standards have toppled.
    - (1) Hollywood is setting the standard for our children.
    - (2) We’ve glamorized adultery, liquorized society and humanized God.
  - iii) Yet, in our churches, people sit unconcerned and apathetic.
- g) In spite of all the debauchery and sin, there is an awakening hunger.
  - i) There is a turning to spiritual things.
  - ii) People are asking if the Bible is true and if there is hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- h) We’re living in the last days of this dispensation.
  - i) We’re in a race against sin, Satan and self.
  - ii) We need to find out what ministry our Lord has for us.
- i) Today’s message will share four principles for discovering your ministry.
  - i) Your ministry in your neighborhood, your business, your family, etc.

2) THE PRINCIPLE OF LORDSHIP (ROMANS 12:1-3)

- a) Romans 12:1-2
  - i) Again, “your reasonable service” means “your logical ministry.”
    - (1) We all want to know the will of God for our lives.
- b) The request
  - i) “I beseech you”
    - (1) Romans 12:1
      - (a) Through the Apostle Paul, this is God’s request to us.
      - (2) We often beseech God to do something, but God is also beseeching us to do something.

- ii) We may sometimes wonder why God has not answered our prayer, but have we answered His request?
- c) The reasons
  - i) “The mercies of God”
    - (1) Romans 12:1
    - (2) When we were rebels, sin-cursed and on our way to Hell, God in mercy sought us, saved us and secured us.
    - (3) He came to save us, died to save us, rose to save us, He lives to save us and soon He’s coming to take us home.
      - (a) All of this is the mercy of God.
      - (b) We are His; we are not our own.
        - (i) We are bought with a price.
    - (4) Consecration is not giving God anything; it is taking our hands off of that which already belongs to Him.
    - (5) 1 Corinthians 6:20
  - d) The requirement
    - i) “That ye present your bodies”
      - (1) Romans 12:1
        - (a) You present yourself; He will not make you do it.
      - (2) There are no draftees in the Lord’s army.
        - (a) Everyone is a volunteer.
      - (3) We are to present ourselves a living sacrifice.
        - (a) This sacrifice is personal.
        - (b) You present yourself; no one can do it for you.
        - (c) A sacrifice in Bible times was an animal that was slain and put on an altar.
        - (d) The reason many Christians don’t have a ministry or know the will and power of God is because they are not willing to die to themselves.
          - (i) They’re not willing to be a living sacrifice.
      - (4) An altar is a place to die on.
        - (a) When we die, we have no more rights of ourselves.
        - (b) Our family, our car, our home, our ambitions, our education, our business, etc., all belong to God.
          - (i) God doesn’t want us to take Him into our business as our partner; He’s our boss.
          - (ii) He owns it; it is His.
      - (5) We’re to make this sacrifice wholly.
        - (a) “Holy” is related to the word “wholly,” which means completely and totally.
        - (b) We can’t just have a half sacrifice.
          - (i) God will not accept half a sacrifice.
          - (ii) Does God have all there is of you?
      - (6) A sacrifice was personal, slain, whole and bound.

- (a) Romans 12:1
- (b) To keep an animal sacrifice from sliding off, it would be bound to the altar by two flesh hooks.
  - (i) The two flesh hooks that will keep us on the altar today are devotion and discipline.
- (c) The reason why most Christians today do not know the will of God and are not used of God is because of self.
  - (i) They don't want to get bound down.
  - (ii) They don't want to be a sacrifice.
    - 1. They want the blessings, but they don't want to be on the altar bound down.
- (7) When a sacrifice is bound to the altar, presented willingly and as a whole sacrifice, it is then consumed.
  - (a) Worship is putting yourself on the altar and letting God consume you until there's none of you and all of Him.
- (8) If you want to know God's will for your life and His logical ministry and reasonable service, it can be summed up in one word: Lordship.
- e) The result
  - i) Romans 12:2
    - (1) The first result will be transformation.
    - (2) "By the renewing of your mind."
      - (a) The second result will be information or revelation.
  - ii) There will be a change in you.
  - iii) The word "transformed" in Romans 12:2 is the word from which we get our English word "metamorphosis."
    - (1) It comes from two words that mean "a change" and "a form."
      - (a) It is a change of form.
    - (2) When we present ourselves upon the altar and the fire consumes us, then we are transformed.
      - (a) We are not conformed (squeezed into the mold of this world), but we are transformed.
  - iv) In a metamorphosis, the inner nature comes to the surface.
  - v) This same word "metamorphosis" or "transformed" was used of Jesus when He was transfigured on the Mount of Transfiguration.
    - (1) Matthew 17:2
      - (a) The word "transfigured" here is the same word that is used in Romans 12:2 for "transformed."
    - (2) Had we been living during New Testament times and seen Jesus walking down the street, we would not have recognized Him as unusual.
      - (a) Judas had to point Him out in the Garden of Gethsemane.
        - (i) Matthew 26:48-49
      - (b) Isaiah 53:2
      - (c) There was nothing distinct about Him.

- (3) But on the Mount of Transfiguration, there was a radiance about Him.
    - (a) Matthew 17:2
    - (b) The inner nature of Jesus was deity.
    - (c) He was metamorphized, and the inner nature came to the surface.
  - vi) The inner nature of the Christian is Jesus.
    - (1) The devil tries to conform us so that we won't be transformed (metamorphized) and so that our inner nature won't come to the surface.
    - (2) When we present ourselves a living sacrifice and are transformed, the inner nature (which is Jesus) comes to the surface, and people see Jesus.
  - f) The revelation
    - i) When there is that transformation, then there is going to be that revelation.
    - ii) Romans 12:2-3
    - iii) When we are metamorphized, we have the mind of Christ.
      - (1) It is no longer your mind; it is the mind of Jesus.
        - (a) That's our inner nature.
    - iv) God renewed your mind so that you could think with it.
      - (1) Don't be afraid to use your mind.
        - (a) You have the mind of Christ.
      - (2) The will of God is found between our ears when we get right with God.
      - (3) We need to think, not in sinful exaggeration or false humiliation, but in sober estimation.
        - (a) What are your gifts?
          - (i) Your ministry will be related to your gifts.
          - (ii) Romans 12:3
    - v) When we present ourselves a living sacrifice, are transformed and receive the mind of Christ, then we are able to use the mind of Christ and make assessments that we could never have made before.
      - (1) We think, not with human rationality or human intellect or human intuition, but with divine guidance.
- 3) THE PRINCIPLE OF MEMBERSHIP (ROMANS 12:4-5)
- a) Romans 12:4-5
    - i) The church is not an organization with Jesus Christ as the president.
    - ii) The church is an organism with Jesus Christ as the head.
    - iii) As Christians, we belong to each other because we all belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - b) Many Christians fail to find their ministry because they try to find it apart from the body of Christ.
    - i) We need one another.
    - ii) To say that we don't need other Christians is sheer pride and arrogance.
  - c) God made each of us different.

- i) We don't all have the same office.
  - ii) God made us different that He might make us one.
    - (1) He made it where we're not supposed to be able to get along without one another.
  - iii) Sometimes the parts of our body that seem more obvious and more needful are not the most valuable.
    - (1) For instance, our right arm is more visible, but we couldn't live without our liver.
  - d) We will not find our ministry outside the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - i) God made us an organization in an organism.
      - (1) The Lord Jesus is the head.
- 4) THE PRINCIPLE OF STEWARDSHIP (ROMANS 12:6-8)
- a) Romans 12:6-8
    - i) The word "grace" in this passage is "charisma."
    - ii) Seven basic Christian gifts are mentioned in this passage.
  - b) Every Christian is charismatic.
    - i) That is, every Christian has grace gifts.
    - ii) This doesn't mean that every Christian is going to do miracles or speak in tongues.
      - (1) That is not what the word "charismatic" means.
      - (2) "Charismatic" simply means that we have received a grace gift.
  - c) It is an insult to God to think or to say that He can't use you.
    - i) God crafted you, formed you, saved you and gave you a spiritual gift.
    - ii) If God has given you a gift, then you're a steward over that gift.
      - (1) You have to use that gift.
  - d) Here are seven areas of stewardship:
    - i) The gift of prophecy
      - (1) Romans 12:6
      - (2) Prophecy is the ability to speak for God.
        - (a) 1 Corinthians 14:3
      - (3) This gift could be used in preaching, in mission work and in Vacation Bible School.
    - ii) The gift of ministry
      - (1) Romans 12:7
        - (a) The word "ministry" here means "service."
          - (i) It is the word from which we get our word "deacon."
          - (ii) It means to be a servant.
      - (2) With this gift, you could work in general church work.
    - iii) The gift of teaching
      - (1) Romans 12:7
      - (2) This gift can be used in teaching Sunday school, in training, in missionary organizations, in neighborhood Bible studies, etc.
    - iv) The gift of exhortation

- (1) Romans 12:8
- (2) The gift of exhortation is to encourage people in the Lord.
- (3) This gift can be used in the music ministry, visitation, in soul winning, counseling, hospital ministry, etc.
- v) The gift of giving
  - (1) Romans 12:8
  - (2) All of us have the obligation to give, just as we all have the obligation to exhort people.
    - (a) But some have the gift of giving, which is the ability to make money, to see needs and to give over and above and to give sacrificially.
- vi) The gift of ruling
  - (1) Romans 12:8
  - (2) This doesn't mean bossing, but it has the idea of organization.
  - (3) This deals with leadership.
    - (a) This deals with church staff, committees, coaching, etc.
    - (b) It deals with organizing.
- vii) The gift of mercy
  - (1) Romans 12:8
  - (2) This gift is used in hospital visitation, benevolence, counseling, etc.
- e) All of these gifts are needful and necessary.
  - i) Find out what your gift is.
    - (1) Put everything on the altar and think with the mind of Christ.

## 5) THE PRINCIPLE OF FELLOWSHIP (ROMANS 12:9-13)

- a) Romans 12:9-13
  - i) "Let love be without dissimulation" means without hypocrisy.
- b) If you want to serve the Lord, then put these four principles together.
  - i) Ask the Lord to help you find your gift and use it.
  - ii) Fellowship in a spirit of love.
- c) We have all been called into the ministry.
  - i) There is something that God wants you to do.

## 6) CONCLUSION

- a) The problem with many Christians is that they are in a rut and have taken things for granted.
  - i) They have given their hearts to Jesus.
  - ii) But when we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and we understand more about all that Jesus did for us, we want to give our lives to Jesus anew and afresh.
- b) We need to present ourselves a living sacrifice, and then we'll prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- c) But in order to know the will of God for your life, you must first know God.

- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16