

“...Unleashes Hundreds...”
October 28, 2007 * 1 Peter 4:7-11

“Our dream is to joyfully become a growing Christian church, that reaches tens of thousands, teaches thousands, **unleashes hundreds** in New England and beyond.” (Grace Baptist’s Vision Statement)

I. *What are the three strong verbs in this statement?*

What do they mean?

Reach for _____.

Teach for _____.

Unleash for _____.

II. *Does God want **me** to serve in ministry?*

A. *Why did Jesus save Paul – and me?*

B. *Which is Biblically true? (Ephesians 4:11-12)*

___ The people support the clergy so they can do the work of ministry.

___ The clergy support the people so they can do the work of ministry.

C. *What does the word ‘ministry’ mean?*

“MINISTRY” MEANS WORKS OF _____ DONE IN
_____ NAME.

D. *So how many ministers does Grace have?*

III. *1 Peter 4:10-11 – The Bible’s Theology Of Ministry*

“Each one...”

A. *What’s the point of these words?*

“...should use...”

A. *What’s the point of these words?*

“...whatever gift he has received...”

A. *What’s the point here?*

TAKE THE AREAS IN YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU ARE
_____, AND WHERE YOU HAVE A _____.

AND SERVE GOD THERE IN THOSE AREAS.

B. *What old, wrong idea do we need to get rid of?*

“...to serve others...”

A. *What is the ultimate purpose of ministry?*

“...faithfully administering God’s grace...”

A. *What’s the point of these words?*

“...in its various forms.”

A. *What’s the idea here?*

B. *Jesus said we’d do greater works than he did (John 14:12).*

What in the world was he talking about?

C. *Do these miracles of ministry continue today?*

“If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God.”

A. *What are some ‘communication’ gifts the church needs?*

“If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides.”

A. *What’s the most important part of a human body?*

B. *Why is it that the ‘serving gifts’ are where the real strength of a church is found? Examples:*

“...Unleashes Hundreds...”
October 28, 2007 * 1 Peter 4:7-11

“Our dream is to joyfully become a growing Christian church, that reaches tens of thousands, teaches thousands, **unleashes hundreds** in New England and beyond.” (Grace Baptist’s Vision Statement)

I. *What are the three strong verbs in this statement?*
Reaches, Teaches, Unleashes

What do they mean?

Reach for **faith**.
Teach for **maturity**.
Unleash for **ministry**.

II. *Does God want me to serve in ministry?*

A. *Why did Jesus save Paul – and me?*

Jesus said to Paul when he first knocked him off his horse: “I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness...I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them” (Acts 26:16-17). Notice – he appeared to Paul to appoint him. He rescued him to send him. We too are saved to be sent. We are blessed to be a blessing.

B. *Which is Biblically true? (Ephesians 4:11-12)*

The people support the clergy so they can do the work of ministry.

The clergy support the people so they can do the work of ministry.

C. *What does the word ‘ministry’ mean?*

“MINISTRY” MEANS WORKS OF **SERVICE** DONE IN **JESUS’** NAME.

D. *So how many ministers does Grace have?*

Each member is a minister.

III. *1 Peter 4:10-11 – The Bible’s Theology Of Ministry*

“Each one...”

A. *What’s the point of these words?*

Every Christian should be unleashed in some ministry. Every Christian should do works of service in Jesus’ name.

“...should use...”

A. *What’s the point of these words?*

Don’t sit there in the pew. Get involved. Get off the sidelines and into the game. Use it or lose it. If you have a passion, express it. If you have a dream, pursue it.

“...whatever gift he has received...”

A. *What’s the point here?*

TAKE THE AREAS IN YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU ARE GIFTED, AND WHERE YOU HAVE A PASSION, AND SERVE GOD THERE IN THOSE AREAS.

B. *What old, wrong idea do we need to get rid of?*

That if you hate doing something, that’s what God will tell you to do. Don’t ever let God hear you say you don’t want to be a missionary to Africa, because if he hears you say that or even think that, guess what? He’ll make you a missionary to Africa. It’s a distortion of the Bible truth that God loves to show his power in our weakness. *That* is true. But what’s not true is the idea that if you are ungifted in something, that’s where God wants to use you. If you hate public speaking, he’ll make you a preacher. If you hate working with children, he’ll make you a youth pastor. No. That’s not how God works.

“...to serve others...”

A. *What is the ultimate purpose of ministry?*

The purpose of ministry is not to put ourselves on a pedestal – look at what I am doing for Jesus. The purpose of ministry is to give glory to God by putting others on a pedestal – to lift others closer to Jesus, to help them get closer to the living God because of what we do, and by doing that we give glory to God.

“...faithfully administering God’s grace...”

A. What’s the point of these words?

To remind us that the gifts we have for ministry are just that – *gifts*. They are tangible expressions of God’s grace to us. We all come into this world with a little bit of wiring. My part is to discover these abilities, develop them and deploy them. But it’s God’s grace. And don’t be envious of what God gave me, and I won’t be envious of what God gave you. Never think to yourself that you’re not needed. And never think to yourself that you don’t need anybody else.

“...in its various forms.”

A. What’s the idea here?

That there are endless ways in which we can serve God in ministry.

B. Jesus said we’d do greater works than he did (John 14:12). What in the world was he talking about?

When Jesus says we’re going to do greater works than he did, the word ‘greater’ does not refer to the *quality* of the work, as though we will show more power than Jesus. The word ‘greater’ refers to the *quantity* of the work. The sheer multiplication of good works done in his name. Jesus says this will happen because ‘he’s going to the Father’. Jesus – though he was God in a human body – was still just one body. And because of that, there was a natural limit on what Jesus could do. If Jesus was in Judea, he couldn’t be in Rome at the same time. But in sending the Holy Spirit into the very hearts of his followers, Jesus now could live, move, breathe, and operate within not one human body, but hundreds, thousands, eventually millions.

C. Do these miracles of ministry continue today?

Absolutely! As a pastor, I can’t teach each and every Sunday School class. I can’t lead every youth group. I can’t tend to the children in our nursery. I can’t lead a worship song and run sound at the same time. I can’t visit every person that needs a visit. I can’t encourage every heart that needs to be encouraged. I can’t organize a coffee house. Yet these good works are being

done in Jesus’ name. How is it possible? The members of Grace are faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.

“If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God.”

A. What are some ‘communication’ gifts the church needs?

Ministries of teaching, of greeting, service leading, singing, the web site, small group leading, the video projection, ushers, praying, sharing testimonies – and because people have been willing to open their mouths this morning or put words on paper, God has touched hearts.

“If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides.”

A. What’s the most important part of a human body?

It can be argued that the most important part of the human body is not what you see on the outside, but it’s what you don’t see – the skeletal system and the muscular system and the nervous system – this is where the real strength of the body is found. And the sky is the limit for serving ministries. Most of what makes a church truly strong is not what you see, but what you don’t see.

B. Why is it that the ‘serving gifts’ are where the real strength of a church is found? Examples:

It’s the one who sends the card to the person needing encouragement. It’s the one who quietly plants the flowers outside the church to make it beautiful. It’s the one who sets up the tables so that the grieving family has a place to gather after the funeral service. It’s the one who makes sure the pencils in the pews are sharpened. It’s the one who runs the sound system. It’s the one who stops in to visit the shut-in church member. It’s the one who fixes the church van. And the one who drives it. The one who counts the offerings, making sure our finances are handled honorably. The one who cooks the meal for the new mother.

You have the opportunity of serving your Savior in ministry, real ministry, in a thousand different ways. With the gifts and passions and abilities and personality and experiences that God has given

you, you are more than equipped and more than able to leave your mark on eternity. Don't you want to do that? Leave your mark on eternity? You just have to decide to roll up your sleeves and get in the game, throw your hat in the ring, cast your bread on the water – you get the point!