

MINISTERS

Romans 12:3-8

Every Christian should fulfill his or her role in the body of Christ according to the grace received from God, which includes ministering in ministry (7). The words “*ministering*” and “*ministry*” mean nothing more or less than “*serving*” and “*service*”. There are many ministries referred to in the scriptures.

I. PREACHERS

A. 2nd Timothy 4:1-5

“*The work of an evangelist*” which is to “*preach the word*” is rightfully recognized as “*ministry*”. It is the service of God’s word.

B. 1st Corinthians 3:5

“*Ministers*” are those who help others to believe, like Paul and Apollos did for the Corinthians.

C. Colossians 1:3-8

A minister is someone helps others to learn the truth of the gospel, as Epaphras did for the Colossians.

D. 1st Thessalonians 3:1-2

A “*minister of God*” is one who labors in the gospel to establish and encourage others in the faith, like Timothy did for the Thessalonians.

E. 1st Timothy 4:6

“*A good minister of Jesus Christ*” is one who will “*instruct the brethren*” according to the “*words of faith*” and “*the good doctrine*” he himself has followed.

II. ANGELS

A. Hebrews 1:13-14

Angels are referred throughout this chapter as being in subjection to Christ, and are finally called “*ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation*”. Remember, the word “*minister*” means “*serve*”, therefore angels are servants to those who would be saved, even though man is lower than them ([Hebrews 2:6-9](#)).

B. [Hebrews 1:6-7](#)

Angels are “*ministers*” of God first and they worship His Son. Christ now claims supremacy over them ([1st Peter 3:21-22](#)) and they were created by God ([Psalm 148:1-4](#)).

III. DEACONS

A. [Philippians 1:1](#)

Among the saints in a given place are people holding specific offices, called “*bishops*” meaning “*overseers*”, and “*deacons*” meaning “*ministers*” or “*servants*”.

B. [1st Timothy 3:8-13](#)

Those holding the specific office of ministry called “*deacons*” must qualify to do so.

IV. GOVERNMENT

A. [Romans 13:1-4](#)

Government exists as a “*minister*” of God’s. The powers that be serve His interests.

B. [Daniel 2:21; 4:17](#)

The leaders we have are placed in their positions of authority by God Himself.

V. APOSTLES

A. [Acts 1:15-26](#)

When the eleven apostles met to find out the Lord's choice to replace Judas, they referred to their work as *"this ministry"* (17, 25).

B. Acts 6:1-4

The reason the apostles arranged for the appointment of the seven in the church at Jerusalem was to tend to material things, so they would not be distracted from their primary function, which was *"the ministry of the word"* (4).

C. 1st Timothy 1:12-14

Paul was included in that *"ministry"* of the apostles.

D. 2nd Corinthians 3:4-6

Paul said that God had made him and other apostles *"sufficient as ministers of the new covenant"* (6).

E. Acts 20:17-27

The apostle Paul's *"ministry"*, which he *"received from the Lord Jesus"*, was *"to testify to the gospel"* (24).

F. Colossians 1:19-26

Paul regarded himself *"a minister"* of the gospel preached (23), and of the body of Christ, His church (24-25).

VI. POVERTY RELIEF WITHIN THE CHURCH

A. Acts 6:1-2

In the church in Jerusalem there was a *"daily distribution"* for the widows, some of whom were being overlooked. The word translated *"distribution"* is the same elsewhere translated *"ministry"*, and does again mean *"service"*.

Rectifying the neglect in this case meant serving tables.

B. Acts 11:27-30; 12:25

The *"relief"* (11:29) which these disciples sent to their distant brethren is the same word elsewhere translated *"ministry"*, and does again mean *"service"*.

Upon returning to Jerusalem, those sent to bring that relief were said to have “fulfilled their ministry” (12:25).

C. Romans 15:25-31

Paul’s ministry to the saints in Jerusalem involved “a certain contribution for the poor among the saints” (26).

D. 2nd Corinthians 8:1-9:15

What is here called “the ministering to the saints” (8:4; 9:1) involved a “gift” (8:4, 19, 20; 9:5, 15) that “supplies the needs of the saints” (9:12).

V. PREACHERS’ ASSISTANTS

A. 2nd Timothy 4:11; Acts 12:25-13:5

Paul regarded Mark as “useful to me for ministry” (2nd Timothy 4:11). He needed an assistant. Mark had performed this function for Paul and Barnabas earlier, accompanying them on their return to Antioch from Jerusalem (Acts 12:25), then going with them on a preaching tour “as their assistant” (Acts 13:5), literally meaning a “subordinate”.

B. Acts 19:21-22

In Ephesus, Paul had two men, “Timothy and Erastus”, “who ministered to him”.

C. Philemon 10-13

Paul saw potential in using Onesimus to minister to him.

VI. CHURCH MEMBERS

A. Romans 16:1

Phoebe was “a servant of the church in Cenchrea”, the word translated “servant” being the same as “minister” elsewhere. In what specific capacity she served that church, we do not know, but we trust it was a role of silence and submission (1st Corinthians 14:34-35).

B. Ephesians 6:21-22

Tychicus was a *“faithful minister in the Lord”* whom Paul sent as his messenger to the church in Ephesus.

C. **Ephesians 4:11-12**

God arranged for the saints to be equipped *“for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”*. Every Christian has some service to perform.