

Equipping Ministers

Introduction

- If you tell me; “I want to learn to play the saxophone like you,” I will reply; “yes!”
 - The first thing that we need to do is get the necessary equipment in order to be able to learn to play the sax, so I am going to **Equip** you correctly.
 - How am I going to equip you?** You need a sax, you need a mouthpiece, you need reeds, you need a strap, you need a metronome, and you need a tuner.
 - Ok. Now you are completely **equipped** to play sax! Done. I am a saxophonist! Alleluia!
 - Unfortunately, is not like this. The equipment is only the beginning of the success. The equipment is only the first step to a very long journey!
- I believe that is important to make a distinction between Equipping and Training.
- **Equipping** = To supply the necessary tools with a particular purpose or goal in mind.
 - When we are equipped we obtain tools.
- **Train** = The action of teaching a person on a specific skill.
 - When we are trained, we are taught on how to use the tools given to us.
- The question that we are asking today is the following; **What type of Equipment/Tools we will need in order to be able to do what God had sent us to do?**
- I will be using the New Living Translation (NLT) for all the Bible verses that we will read.
- God has given us gifts and tools to put them to use with the goal of serving others.
- Real Ministry is Service to others. For this reason, you will see buildings with a name like, “Building for Public Ministry” in Latin America.
- **Ministry = Service**
- When we are ministers, we are called to serve.

- In order to serve well, we need the necessary tools. We need to be **Equipped**.

1 Peter 4:10

10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

What type of Equipment/Tools we will need in order to be able to do what God had sent us to do?

- I made a list of seven tools that, from my understanding, are essential to perform an effective ministry.
 1. Love for the Gospel
 2. Love for God
 3. Love for People (this love also corrects)
 4. Love for Excellence
 5. Love for Joy
 6. Love for the Word of God
 7. Hope/Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ
- Why is important to be Equipped? Because, as ministers, we need the right tools to be able to do our job effectively.

Ephesians 4:12

12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

- In the next conference we will hear of the importance of the Training (how to use the tools) from pastor Tommy.
- Ok. Let's begin with the Tools.

1. Love for the Gospel

- Gospel = Good news
- Evangelist = The one who spread the Good news.
- Evangelic = The one who live enjoying the Good news.
- The Gospel should go with us everywhere we go.

Ephesians 6:15

15For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.

- To share the Gospel should be an urgency for us.

1 Corinthians 9:16

16Yet preaching the Good News is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn't preach the Good News!

- The Gospel is the power of God.

Romans 1:16

16For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

- The instruction that was given to us by Jesus was to proclaim the Gospel to all people.

Mark 16:15

15And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

2. Love for God

- To love God is to desire a communion with Him at all times.
- It is to speak with Him regularly.
- It is to spend time with Him on a regular basis.
- To love God above everything else is necessary in order to be a good minister.
- The apostles loved Jesus so much that the people will notice that they had spent time with Him.

Acts 4:13

13The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

- To love God will develop closeness with Him.
- To love God will develop our character.
- To love God will develop our calling.

3. Love for People (this love also corrects)

- How will ministry be without people? There will be NO ministry!
- To love people is to serve all of them.

Mark 10:42-45

42 So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them.

43 But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant,

44 and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else.

45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- To love people is to serve them.
- To love people is to guide them.
- To love people is to correct them.
- To love people is to be real with them.

4. Love for Excellence

- To love excellence doesn't mean to be a perfectionist.

Daniel 6:1-3

1 Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province.

2 The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king's interests.

3 Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire.

- Excellence says; "I will do it better tomorrow."

- Excellence is NOT a competition with anyone; excellence competes with myself.
- Excellence seeks to be and to do better within our skills.
- I love the advise that Paul gives to the Philippians.

Philippians 4:8

8And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

5. Love for Joy

- Many confused joy with happiness.
- **Joy** = Comes from the inside. It is not a sentiment that is affected by your surroundings.
- One of my favorite verses about the joy in the Lord is when Jesus speaks to the disciples in John 15.

John 15:11

11I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

- As ministers, we choose to love joy. We make the decision to be joyful.
- Even when we are frustrated, we choose joy.
- When we are discouraged or tired, we choose joy.
- To love joy is to wake up every morning repeating **Psalm 118:24**.
24This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

6. Love for the Word of God

- Our worldview should be biblical.
- Worldview is the way we see the world.
- To develop a biblical worldview we need to develop a love for the Word of God.
- In the Word of God we will find the answer to all areas of our lives and ministries.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

17God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

You are required to believe, to preach, and to teach what the Bible says is true, not what you want the Bible to say is true.”

-RC Sproul

- The Word of God should be what we love the most and what helps us walk with solid steps in everything we do.
- Our leaders should see this in us.

Psalm 119:105

105Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

7. Hope/Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ

- My point here is that as we walk in our ministry with the Lord, we should trust and wait on Him.
- Ministry is NOT about us.
- The church is His. The people are His. Our leaders belong to Him.

Psalm 42:11

11Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again— my Savior and my God!

- One of the biggest temptations for a minister that is leading a church or a ministry is to place their hope and faith on his own abilities or own resources.
- This is the reason why we get frustrated easily.

Conclusion

- Let's do an inventory of our tools, so we can train our leaders in a productive way.
 1. Love for the **Gospel**
 2. Love for **God**
 3. Love for **People** (this love also corrects)
 4. Love for **Excellence**
 5. Love for **Joy**
 6. Love for the **Word of God**
 7. Hope/Faith in our **Lord Jesuschrist**

- As Defenders of the Christian Faith, it is our goal to have these tools at our disposal and to use them constantly in the training of our new and younger generation of ministers.