

January 20, 2019

“Three Reminders about Ministry”, 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Today, our church multiplies in pastors. It is our privilege and honor to ordain John Maiden to the Gospel ministry from the role of Associate Minister to Pastor/Elder/Bishop/Overseer (all the same in the New Testament). Senior Pastor John & Kelley Ulrich, Eric Dillon (John Maiden's father in law and elder at Open Door Church), Joel & Allison Brown, Ricky & Hope Tharrington, Marc & Hannah Mailand all now share directly or by video, John Maiden's desire and suitability for ministry.

Charge to John Maiden: 3 Reminders about Pastoral Ministry (2 Tim. 2:1-7)

1. Pastoral Ministry is for men who are qualified and reliable.

In 2 Tim. 2:1-2, the Apostle Paul reminded younger Pastor Timothy to continue the succession of faith in the ministry of the Gospel, handing it on to reliable, qualified men in teaching. Other qualifications are listed in 1 Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-10, and 1 Pet. 5:1-7. No one is perfect, but these expectations are to be the clear direction of a pastor's life...a man above reproach (1 Tim. 1:3). Being “above reproach” means the pastor's family life should be in order, his character should be Godly, and he should handle the Word of God accurately, capably, compellingly, and with confidence as he faithfully preaches and defends the Gospel.

2. Pastoral Ministry will be hard at times.

Paul showed the toil of pastoral ministry in two metaphors: taking your share of suffering like a good soldier who holds his ground for the Kingdom (2 Tim. 2:3-4) and enduring hard training without questioning like an athlete (2 Tim. 2:5). As an ordained minister, you are placing yourself at God's disposal, to send you wherever He may choose. It may be dangerous. It may be a hard place where you learn that the true test of servanthood is how you respond when someone treats you like a servant. It may be a place where you see very little visible fruit, the results you long to see. God calls you to stay right where He places you, until He releases you, and calls you elsewhere.

3. Pastoral Ministry is Rewarding.

Just as the hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops (2 Tim. 2:6-7), the pastor should have his financial needs met by his congregation. Paul did not want Timothy to forget that even though ministry is a difficult job (even a hard job at times), there is no more rewarding job than that of pastoral ministry. Its rewards include: working with amazing, generous, loving, hard-working brothers and sisters in Christ; getting to see the Kingdom of God grow in people; and gaining eternal rewards of “true riches” (Luke 16:11) from our Master.

Pastor John and Kelley Ulrich, Zack Nelson (Pillar Network), Eric Dillon (Open Door Church), and the leadership team members of Perry Creek pray for John and Sarah Maiden with the laying on of hands as John Maiden is now the Assistant Pastor at Perry Creek Church.

Congregational prayer of dedication for the ministry of John and Sarah Maiden: May John's heart be completely devoted to God (avoiding self reliance, fear of men, and hypocrisy). May his family be a refuge and a delight in loving one another. May his ministry be driven with compelling words through the power and fire of the Holy Spirit. May he measure success by God's values and not those of people.

Discussion Questions:

1. Are the requirements to be a pastor in II Tim. 2:1-7, I Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-10, I Pet. 5:1-7, different from the life to which all Christians should aspire? Are we reliable & qualified for Jesus?
2. If pastors have many requirements and responsibilities, what are our responsibilities to the pastor? (Check out I Tim. 5:17-25 and add your own). How can you alone, and your small group together, assist your pastors?
3. Which characteristic in John Maiden inspires you most in your faith walk? Consider other pastors you have known...What has inspired you most about them? Have you ever told them?
4. Discuss how and where it is hard for you to be a Christian (workplace, family secular friends, etc.) Is the difficulty worth it for you?