

Are Workplace Believers in Ministry @ Work?

I had a conversation about whether or not I am in ministry since I do not function as a local church pastor. I would like to share my response that all believers are called to minister where God has called them based on Eph. 4:11-12 as follows: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, Pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"

This means that the operation of five-fold ministry gifts is for the perfecting (equipping) of believers to do ministry work.

Ministry work based on Mark 3:13-15 and Mathew 28:18-20 is as follows:

- Fellowship with Christ
- Preach to others
- Heal others
- Make other disciples

Christ did not intend ministry work to be limited to a local church setting or to be done only by clergy. There is a calling upon every believer to be an apostle where God has called them to work. You may wonder - an apostle at work? Yes I mean that we have a calling to be workplace apostles. The term **apostle** means "one who is sent away" or an "emissary" with purpose of conveying message(s). For Christian apostles in the Gospels, the message they were sent away to convey was the message of the "good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ", and they were sent away by Jesus to the Jews in Matthew 10. As a believer in a workplace setting, you are sent by Christ or represent Christ and expected to convey his message in deed and in word to others. St. Francis Assisi stated that we should also preach the gospel always with our deeds.

I believe one of the ways to release the church's power in the workplace to transform our society is through believers in workplace accepting and living out their calling as Christ's workplace apostles. For this to happen, workplace believers need to be equipped by clergy and work in partnership with the local church.

Do you accept you have a calling as a workplace apostle to your workplace? Or as a pastor, do you accept that your congregation members have such a calling and you are expected to equip them to succeed?

Have a blessed week.

