

MELVIN JOURNAL

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(week 15)

YOUR ARE A BONA-FIDE MINISTER

According to Eph. 4:11-12, the preparers are pastors and teachers.

Bona-fide means genuine, without fraud, Roget's 21st Century Thesaurus lists these synonyms: authentic, real, actual certain, factual, honest-to goodness, kosher, legitimate, official, true, and valid. Try any of these synonyms for the above title: You are a real minister. You are an authentic minister. You are a honest-to goodness minister. You are an **official** minister.

Every lay person should be required to write on the chalkboard 100 times, **I AM A MINISTER**. I have a cartoon of a man with chalk in hand doing just that. The Church of Jesus Christ is in a mega transition. Church culture is being turned upside down as it grasps the biblical teaching about the following terms:

MINISTER- Every Christian is a minister, most are volunteer ministers, a few are vocational.

MINISTRY- every Christian is given spiritual gifts with which to do their ministry.

CALLING - 99% of the Christians in every church are not called to leave their occupation to become ministers, but are to use their ministry gifts where they work and live.

EQUIPPING- The 99% are to be equipped for their ministries by those whose ministry is to "prepare God's people for ministry." According to Ephesians 4:11-12 the preparers are pastors and teachers.

The church is to be a training center (seminary) for the 99%. You may find yourself in the roster of ministers listed in Romans 12 and I Corinthians 12, or perhaps the list of ministries added to the church since 75 A.D. You are sure to find yourself in Romans 12:3, **everyone of you**, and in I Corinthians 12:27, **each one of you**, and in I Peter 4:10, **each one**. Lay Pastors, you are bonafide ministers. I find you in Romans 12 as people given the gifts of encouragement and mercy, and in I Peter 5:1-4 as people assigned the task of being "shepherds of God's flock."

You have been called, gifted, and equipped. Though not as prominent and not as "full-time," you are just as authentic and kosher as those who go off to seminary, You will share equally "in the glory that is to be revealed," and shall also "receive the crown of life which will never fade away" (I Peter 5:4) There are no second classes Christians, only first class specialists. Lay Pastors are specialists in pastoral care - bona fide ministers.

from the Melvin's Essay



As you might know, pastors are generalists and lay people are specialists which is urged by Prof. John Patton. How do you see it? What is the most important ministry or organization to which you are associated? Does it use a specific yardstick to assess performance? How successful is the ministry in relating with these four above? Byeong