

Charting the Course "Who's Doing the Work?"

"In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. **So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.** This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. **So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.** Acts 6: 1-7

The Ministry of the Word (Kerygma)

- * Declare the Old Testament promises are fulfilled in Jesus.
- * Jesus was anointed by God as Messiah.
- * Jesus conducted a beneficent ministry, doing good and performing mighty works.
- * Jesus was crucified, buried and raised from the dead, appearing to the disciples.
- * Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to the new community

The role of pastors.

- * Prayer and fasting
- * Teaching and preaching
- * Training of people
- * Leadership and vision
- * Speaking and living the Kerygma and the Gospel.

Often the expectations of a pastor are overwhelming, expecting one person to fulfill the roles of preacher, teacher, innovator, visionary, servant leader, good 'ole boy, financial guru, counselor and comedian.

Where do these people come from if the pastors can't do it?

The role of the congregation.

- * Ministry.
- * Praying for each other.
- * Serving each other with your gifts.
- * Sharing the good news of Jesus.
- * Supporting the ministry of the Word of God.
- * Influencing and blessing the people around you.

1. Each person has a gift to bring.

As a whole, this church is significantly gifted to expand the kingdom of God.

You each have special gifts and abilities given to you by God.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”

1 Corinthians 12

2. Together, pastors and the church can accomplish great things in growing the kingdom of God.

First, discover your gifts.

Second, use your gifts in faith.

Third, use your gifts prayerfully.

Lastly, DON'T DO NOTHING!