

Equip Men to Ministry **May 2019**

This is our third installment on the 4 E's of Men's Ministry, the cornerstones to making sure we are touching a man in every area of his Christian walk. It is important to make sure that we are not only engaging in "ministries by men", but are also involved in "ministering to men." Both are important. However, often the "ministering to men" element is overlooked, and, if one is more important, "ministering to men" is the one. For when men get the spiritual part right, then they will have a longing desire to do "ministries by men."

To remind us what are the 4 E's we discussed in a previous article, I have listed them again. They are;

1. **Evangelize** Men to Salvation
2. **Establish** Men to Spiritual Maturity
3. **Equip** Men to Ministry
4. **Extend** Men on Mission

In this article we will review the third cornerstone, **Equip** Men to Ministry.

Many men that are active in the church generally desire to reach out and help individuals in need. Many of the men in our churches are involved in helping with maintenance activities around the church. Some engage in recovery efforts after a devastating storm has come through an area. They might be involved in building ramps to help the disabled to access their homes easier. Men may even go on various types of mission trips. Does all of this mean that they are Equipped to do Ministry. I will submit to you – not necessarily.

In my travels I have seen men work hard to deal with an individual's specific needs. They may have been trained to do the task assigned and they do an exceptional job. However, there is another aspect, that of Equipping Men to Minister to the spiritual needs of the individual.

When men are actively being Established in Spiritual Maturity, they will be equipped to minister. Generally, these men will be the first to volunteer for ministering opportunities.

Often our men have been trained in certain tasks but have not been trained in how to share the gospel, specifically, how to pray with and for someone, how to react when people ask "Why?" They like helping with the physical needs but often lack the skills to deal with the spiritual needs.

When I am out on a ministry opportunity, we encourage team members to develop a relationship with the person being ministered to. Not everyone on the team will be able to do this; but, someone on the team may be able to relate with the one being ministered to, taking the time to get to know them and at some point, talking with them about spiritual matters. I have noticed that men who have been in discipling relationships are more likely to develop those relationships with the individual. Therefore, it is important to help move our men into discipling relationships so they can develop the spiritual maturity to speak into the lives of others..

As men grow spiritually in their walk with God, they will develop the confidence to speak into the lives of the people being ministered. There is a direct correlation between Establishing Men in Spiritual Maturity and Equipping Men to Ministry.

So, Equipping Men to Ministry is two-fold: 1) teach them how to perform tasks that meet the needs of the individual and 2) teach them how to speak into the individual's life about spiritual matters. This is performed by providing training opportunities for men to learn the tasks and discipling relationships needed in order to speak into people's lives.

As you evaluate your church's ministry to men, make sure you are not only training them to perform certain tasks exceptionally well, but also discipling them so they can speak into others' lives with confidence.

Together in the challenge and adventure to disciple men - Mike