

The 4 E's of Ministering to Men February 2019

In past articles I have discussed making sure we are "Intentional" in developing relationships with our men as we encourage them to move in discipling and ministry relationships. We want to develop "Multiply Entry Points" and we want to "Know our men." All three of these are important as a church develops its ministry to men.

The 4 E's of Men's Ministry is just as important as these are the cornerstone to make sure we are touching a man in every area of his walk with Christ. This helps to make sure we are not only being involved in "ministries by men" but, we are also involved in "ministering to men." Both are important but often the "ministering to men" element is overlooked.

So, what are the 4 E's? You will see these listed on the Men's Ministry webpage on the North Carolina Baptist on Mission website. But I am going to take each one in future articles and discuss them.

The 4 E's are;

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

Just like spokes in a wheel, each one is required to develop a balanced approach to 'ministering to men' and 'ministering by men.' If any are missing, then the men of the church are not fully engaged in the work of Christ.

Men's Ministry is so much more than having breakfast gatherings and various events. It is also about men pouring their lives into other men. Paul said it best when he told the Thessalonians in Chapter 2 verse 8 in his first letter to the Thessalonians,

We care so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you have become so dear to us. (CSB)

Over a decade ago I began to experience this as men began pouring their life into me. They prayed with me. They shared scripture with me. They gave me biblical insight on how a man is to act. Instead of just telling me how to act, they trained me how to act. Many of the problem's men have today can be resolved if men will get into the Word and allow other men to come alongside of them to pour into their lives.

Jesus pulled 12 men unto himself for the purpose of pouring His life into them. He pulled three of those men – Peter, James, and John – even closer. He never sent anyone out by themselves. He sent them out at least by two.

If Jesus – the God-Man – felt the need for men to be surrounded by men what makes us believe we can do this life alone? If he sent them out by twos, what makes us think we can do life alone?

We will be discussing this in the coming articles on why we need to incorporate the 4 E's into our Men's Ministry and how these with the philosophy to be Intentional, creating Multiple Entry Points, and Knowing Our Men fit together.

Together in the challenge and adventure to disciple men - Mike

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