

C & C: Addicted to the Ministry

Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

1 Corinthians 16:14-18

14 Let all your things be done with charity.

15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, **and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,**)

16 That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.

17 I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: **for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied.**

18 For they have refreshed my spirit and yours: therefore acknowledge ye them that are such.

Let all your things be done with charity! Love of the Church! The Apostle Paul petitions the saints to submit themselves unto those that have addicted themselves to the ministry, to every one that helps them, and labors! **It's time to get addicted to the ministry and produce some fruit!** It's time to submit yourselves unto such! Only let it be done with charity, which is love!

The Apostle Paul also speaks of three others who supplied what they had lacked to supply saying, "For they have refreshed my spirit and yours: **therefore acknowledge ye them that are such.**" **It's time to get addicted to the ministry and watch the Church flourish!**

1 Peter 5:1-5

1 The elders which are among you I exhort, **who am also an elder**, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, **not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;**

3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, **but being ensamples to the flock.**

4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, **ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.**

5 Likewise, ye younger, **submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility:** for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Let "all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility:" Including the elders. The elders feeding the flock of God willingly, not for wealthy gain and greed, but of a ready mind! Not as oppressors and lords over God's heritage, but by examples leading the flock of God! **It's time to get addicted to the ministry!**

The Apostles addicted themselves to the ministry and taught us to do the same!

1 Peter 4:8-11

8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Again we are told by the Apostle Peter this time. “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” As everyone has received the gift, “even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God”! Watch how you conduct yourselves! “for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ”. **It’s time to get addicted to the ministry!**

Philippians 2:1-8

1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory! Let all your things be done with charity! You aren’t addicting yourself to the ministry for vain glory of men! Humble yourselves and “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:” who “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant” and “he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.” “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” **It’s time to get addicted to the ministry!**

Ephesians 4:15-16

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

We as the body of Christ when we minister “maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” “in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” “likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind” “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” **It’s time to get addicted to the ministry!**

Your ministry is vital to the body of Christ! And one ministry is not above another!

Acts 9:36-42

36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was **full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.**

37 And it came to pass in those days, that **she was sick, and died:** whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and **all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.**

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, **and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.**

42 **And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.**

There’s no ministry to small! Whether cleaning the Church, or supplying clothing for the people, or waiting on tables! **It’s time to get addicted to the ministry!**

Acts 6:1-8

1 And in those days, when **the number of the disciples was multiplied,** there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, **because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.**

2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, **and serve tables.**

3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, **and to the ministry of the word.**

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

7 **And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.**

8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Your ministries will add to the body of Christ but must be done in love and souls will be added to the kingdom of God! To each person their portion! The Apostles “we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word” while seven others took care of “the daily ministrations” “and serve tables”. **God sets each member of the body where He chooses and when He chooses and How he chooses and adds to each member as He sees fit to profit all!**

Romans 12:3-21

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, **whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;**

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

17 Recompose to no man evil for evil. **Provide things honest in the sight of all men.**

18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, **feed him**; if he thirst, **give him drink**: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

21 Be not overcome of evil, **but overcome evil with good.**

It's time to get addicted to the ministry! “Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.” “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

“Provide things honest in the sight of all men.” “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” “Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.” “Let all your things be done with charity.” “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer”.

1 Corinthians 3:9-15

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

It's time to get addicted to the ministry and produce some fruit! “For we are labourers together with God”! “Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.” **It's time to get addicted to the ministry and produce some fruit!** “If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

It's time to get addicted to the ministry!

Titus 3:8

8 This is a faithful saying, and **these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable unto men.

Titus 3:14

14 And let ours also **learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Hebrews 10:23-25

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith **without wavering;** (for he is faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Titus 2:11-15

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, **and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

It's time to get addicted to Jesus Christ and the work of the ministry producing fruit "some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty"! (Mt 13:23)