

End-Time Prep Series
Lesson 10: Self-Supporting Ministry
Sermon Bible Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.

Today we are going to talk about the importance of self-supporting ministries in the context of being ready for the end of time, doing the medical missionary work, and true education.

Self Supporting Ministry

- What is it?
- How is it supported financially?
- What are some misconceptions of it?
- What is the true meaning of it?
- What is the difference between “selfless” & “selfish” supporting ministry?
- Give some Old and New Testament examples of true “self-supporting” ministers

What is it?

Technical definition: Organized ministries or groups of Christian lay-people that are active in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ that are not under the direct control nor employment of a Church Conference or Union.

How is it supported financially?

- Donations
- Industries

What are some misconceptions of it?

- Off-shoot
- Cult
- Shepherd’s Rod
- Pharisees
- Fanatical

What is the true meaning of it?

1. God Dependent

John 5:30

30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 15:5-8

5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done

unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

2. Selfless

Luke 9:23-24

23 And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Romans 8:13

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Colossians 3:5

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

1 Corinthians 15:31

31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

True Self-Supporting Ministry

- God Supported & Selfless Support Ministry
- Supports the foundational or historical mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church movement to share the Three Angels' Message to all the world.

Selfless Vs. Selfish

“Selfish” Supporting Ministry

“Fulfills the fleshy desires of recognition, fame, money, honor, pride, covetousness, comfort, convenience, etc...”

Only wants to please self and not others even though a professed minister to reach others.

Matthew 7:21-23

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Generosity begets generosity. Selfishness begets selfishness. {Ellen White, Testimonies Vol. 1 p. 149.4}

Selfless Supporting Ministry

T.M.T – Total Mind Transformation

We must have the mind of Christ in order to have a selfless supporting ministry.

Philippians 2:3-8

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.

What are some Bible examples of self-supporting ministries?

Old Testament

Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Moses, Nehemiah, Ezra, Isaiah, Jeremiah

New Testament

John the Baptist, Jesus, Jesus' disciples, Paul

"God will move upon men in humble positions to declare the message of present truth. Many such will be seen hastening hither and thither, constrained by the Spirit of God to give light to those in darkness. The truth is a fire in their bones, filling them with a burning desire to enlighten those who sit in darkness. Many even among the uneducated, will proclaim the word of the Lord. Children will be impelled by the Holy Spirit to go forth to declare the message from heaven. The Spirit will be poured out upon those who yield to His promptings. Casting off man's binding rules and cautious movements, they will join the army of the Lord." (Ellen G. White, Testimonies Vol. 7 p.26, 27)

"In many places self-supporting missionaries can work successfully. It was as a self-supporting missionary that the apostle Paul labored in spreading the knowledge of Christ throughout the world. While daily teaching the gospel in the great cities of Asia and Europe, he wrought at the trade of a craftsman to sustain himself and his companions. His parting words to the elders of Ephesus, showing his manner of labor, have precious lessons for every gospel worker:

"Ye know," he said, "after what manner I have been with you at all seasons: . . . and how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house. . . . I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:18-35.

Many today, if imbued with the same spirit of self-sacrifice, could do a good work in a similar way. Let two or more start out together in evangelistic work. Let them visit the people, praying, singing, teaching, explaining the Scriptures, and ministering to the sick. Some can sustain themselves as canvassers; others, like the apostle, can labor at some handicraft

or in other lines of effort. As they move forward in their work, realizing their helplessness, but humbly depending upon God, they gain a blessed experience. The Lord Jesus goes before them, and among the wealthy and the poor they find favor and help." {Ministry of Healing p. 154}

"This work requires self-sacrifice. While many are waiting to have every obstacle removed, the work they might do is left undone, and multitudes are dying without hope and without God. Some for the sake of commercial advantage, or to acquire scientific knowledge, will venture into unsettled regions and cheerfully endure sacrifice and hardship; but how few for the sake of their fellow men are willing to move their families into regions that are in need of the gospel. To reach the people, wherever they are, and whatever their position or condition, and to help them in every way possible--this is true ministry. By such effort you may win hearts and open a door of access to perishing souls." {Ministry of Healing p. 156}

"Thus saith the Lord: Buildings will give character to My work only when those who erect them follow My instruction in regard to the establishment of institutions. Had those who have managed and sustained the work in the past always been controlled by pure, unselfish principles, there never would have been the selfish gathering of a large share of My means into one or two places.

Institutions would have been established in many localities. The seeds of truth, sown in many more fields, would have sprung up and borne fruit to My glory. Places that have been neglected are now to receive attention. My people are to do a sharp, quick work. Those who with purity of purpose fully consecrate themselves to Me, body, soul, and spirit, shall work in My way and in My name. Everyone shall stand in his lot, looking to Me, his Guide and Counselor.

I will instruct the ignorant and anoint with heavenly eyesalve the eyes of many who are now in spiritual darkness. I will raise up agents who will carry out My will to prepare a people to stand before Me in the time of the end. In many places that before this ought to have been provided with sanitariums and schools, I will establish My institutions, and these institutions will become educational centers for the training of workers." E. G. White, Counsels on Health, pp. 226-227

What are some self-supporting ministry Biblical Lessons From Jesus?

Luke 9:1-6

- 1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.
- 2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.
- 3 And he said unto them, **Take nothing for *your* journey, neither staves, nor scrip** (GK: a *wallet* or leather *pouch* for food-Strong's), **neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.**
- 4 **And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.**
- 5 **And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.**
- 6 And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.

Luke 10:1-7

- 1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.
- 2 Therefore said he unto them, **The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.**
- 3 **Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.**
- 4 **Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.**
- 5 **And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace *be* to this house.**
- 6 **And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.**
- 7 **And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.**

Luke 14:27-33

- 27 **And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.**
- 28 **For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*?**
- 29 **Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him,**
- 30 **Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.**

31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Matthew 7:7-11

7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

“Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power--all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these.”
{Ellen G. White, Great Controversy p. 606.2}