

What is Every Member Ministry?

Ephesians 2:20-21, 4:1-12

How important is a comma?

- Consider Ephesians 4:12 and the effect of the comma in the King James Version

Priesthood of All Believers: a Biblical truth recovered during the Reformation

- Through Christ all believers have been given direct access to God, just like an Old Testament priest. God is equally accessible to all the faithful, and therefore every Christian has equal potential to minister for God.

- “You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:5; see also 2:9)

- Wait... if we all are priests, why do we talk about specific leaders such as apostles, elders, pastors, etc.?

- Here’s the foundation: “...the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” (Eph 2:20-21)

- Foundation: apostles and prophets, whose inspired words are still with us as Scripture (1 Peter 1:10-11; 2 Peter 1:20-21, 3:16; Jude 17-18)

- Here’s the foundation AND what’s built upon it: “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” (Eph 4:11-12)

- Built upon the foundation is the superstructure, which is evangelists, shepherds (= pastors), and teachers—and all the saints!

- And the saints are all doing ministry! See also 1 Cor 12:12-31, Romans 12:3-8.

Every Member Ministry

- What does it look like?
- What prevents it from developing?
- What encourages it?

Postscript: And here’s a current opportunity to serve in ministry!

- Youth ministry: Come spend time with our New Life youth! We need Jr. High leaders to join us on Friday nights and Sunday mornings, and Sr. High leaders on Sunday nights and Sunday mornings. We have numerous activities and we like to have a range of leaders from all ages. Contact Jason Peterson if interested. jpeterson@newlifeglenside.com
- We have plenty of other opportunities in other ministries as well. Don’t be afraid to ask!

