

Weekly Column
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Melvin University
and Me

What are the standard in ministry?

I walk almost to the left when I go down the street. For some reason, it is convenient for me to walk that way. Sometimes it's uncomfortable to walk to the right. I feel secure when I walk to the left. Is it just me?

There is also a label on the inside of the clothes, almost at the bottom left. I checked again and found that almost all clothes have such labels. I don't know why or when it started, I think it was from the beginning with a good reason. Why are they so obsessed with the left, and was it like that continually?

The left hand and the right hand were the same. Apparently, the right hand uses a lot. Sometimes there are people who are left-handed, but people almost always use their right hand, and I remember playing table tennis with my hometown pastor in the churchyard at a rural church when I was young, and I used to play with my right hand excitedly. One of the church colleagues played with his left hand, and he played really well. However, most people play table tennis with their right hand.

Isn't there a word yin and yang in Chinese philosophy? It would mean there should be two sides. So I'm going to conclude by myself, "Aha,

the left hand is the standard and the right hand is used for activities." Because we don't use our left hand a lot, but it's going to be really hard without it. And how ugly it must be to look! At the same time, I thought a little leap forward, "If so, then what are the standards in ministry?"

The standard in ministry? What are the criteria for ministry that are not used well, but are not easily visible, but have important functions! It will be the standard for the ministry to work well. As we do almost all activities with our right hand, we know and proceed with the progress and development of the ministry. Then, what are the criteria for ministry, such as the role of the left hand to be more effective in proceeding like that?

First, it's not exactly the same as the standard I think, but if you look at the Bible verse 1:5-8 there are similar things. "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Now I'm going to write down the criteria I'm thinking about. Of course, it was organized through personal experience. The standard is not something that moves, but something that is fixed and worth it, but [honesty] comes to mind first. I think the word "100% honest" is absurd, and I think we have to be as honest as possible to gain trust from people around us. Honesty doesn't change with the times, it should be consistent. I admit that of course each person has a different personality and has a different style of leadership or lifestyle.

I've been told that "pastors should have a thousand faces," which is a technical aspect of ministry, so it is understandable and acceptable logic. This is not to say that they are dishonest.

The next criterion is the attitude to [commitment] to a given ministry. Will you work for the ministry itself? Or will you work for personal advancement (promotion and honor)? It would be appreciated that the individual's advancement is given incidentally, but if you try to get it purposely, problems begin to arise. As someone said, no matter what organization or ministry, it is successful if it continues without pursuing personal benefits. It is believed to mean dedication to that organization and ministry.

And then we can talk about [humility]. Recently, I was recommended to give a lecture to our university, two master's degrees in pedagogy and theology at Harvard, a master's degree in pedagogy at Cambridge University, and a Ph.D. in psychology. The person, who introduced the candidate to me said, "she is a very humble person." With that educational background, they can be proud of it, so I became more attractive to the candidate.

In fact, it goes without saying that any ministry must succeed if it starts. However, it is considered acceptable that the success should have the above prerequisites, that is, an unshakable reference point.