



Lay Pastors Ministry with Melvin University

Lecturing from the President Byeong

Lecture 4

(based on the experiences)



The meaning of this ministry



Dear students,

I have found meaning of this ministry like this:

First, every believer is a minister. This is derived from the meaning of Ephesians 4:11-12, the main scripture and also core concept of the Lay Pastors Ministry. In the 1970s, Lutheran theologian Oscar Feucht has written the book, "Everyone A Minister" which was shocking to the people, especially to pastors because people, both pastors and laypeople, had been thought that only Pastors are ministers. But Oscar thought those who have Christ in mind, they are all ministers, and he made a new terminology, MINISTERIUM which originally means monthly gathering of Pastors.

Second, the concept of Partners in Ministry. Dr. James Garlow was the pastor of Skyline Methodist Church in San Diego and has written the book, "Partners in Ministry." This book came from his Ph.D. dissertation at Drew University. He stressed in the book that we, pastors and laypeople, should be partners in ministry. One church at Kangnam, downtown in Seoul, had been focused on the 'discipleship-making.' This ministry paradigm was famous in Korean churches and also in Asian churches. But now they have been upgraded and changed the slogan to the 'church of partners in ministry.' Because this is a more proper long-term direction of their church.

Third, the pastor grows and also laypeople grow. Of course, they have been growing. However, without the proper paradigm and ministry direction, their growth was minimal. But through the Lay Pastors Ministry, both laypeople and pastors have been growing.

Fourth, the church's health. This is directly related to the church culture. If the church is good, the church will grow. Because a good culture accommodates everything. Lay Pastors Ministry is pursuing a healthy and good church-oriented environment. Culture is related to commitment. Finally, team ministry. Team ministry here is not referring to pastors and pastoral staff, but laypeople and laypeople, people to people. They have to have the team spirit, and so partners in ministry with their senior pastor and team concept among laypeople. That is not only YOU and ME, but the 'WE' concept has to be there.

I have read one book, "Me to We," because of the title that attracted my attention, so I bought, read, and also translated into Korean. The content was a dialogue between an old pastor and a young pastor. The young pastor has struggled with his church ministry, so the old pastor, I guess an experienced pastor, advised him from Ephesians, to equip the saints for the work of ministry.