



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO  
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



### **To resist failure in the ministry (2)**

3. Structure (DESIGN). "Wherever there is the grace of Christ, we must find a form to express it appropriately." In Avery Dulles' [Church Model], structure is not a necessary evil, but a part of the ministry that the Lord has left us. Structure should always be reviewed/confirmed. Do you only have a position? Or do you function! Or do you function! Nothing should be ignored. Some overemphasize title, position. Some, on the other hand, try to ignore order by overemphasizing function. What is best is a position that can function.

4. Calling (CALL). "You did not choose me, but I chose you ..." (John 15:16). Being called as the Lord also has to do with the gift of ministry, theologians say. A pastor did not receive much of a gift or a laity. Also, the idea that ministers were given a gift and not a laity is both non-Bible and non-theological. So there are three reasonable ways to publicly acknowledge what has been called. It is yourself first, then the leaders, and the whole church. Even if you are called, you may be judged not to be the case in the eyes of the leaders around you. But even if both are accepted, it is necessary for the congregations to acknowledge it. I found that lay people do not think well that their ministry was called by God. They easily believe that our pastors have been called. However, they also do not believe that they have been called by God, so they tend to neglect things that are quite important.

5. EQUIPPING. "Prepare saints for pastoral ministry" (Ep 4:12). One English Bible says: "Prepare the people of God for the work of service." But in fact, if you look at the Greek Bible, it says, "The work of ministry." When early missionaries translated it into Korean, they emphasized that it was the work of service, so they often tend to stay in the service even now. The request to have people who want to become ministers was given to pastors. That is why the so-called

paradigm shift is that pastors are now ministers to become equippers, and laypeople are now members to ministers.

6. Responsibility (ACCOUNTABILITY). Supervision is essential to proceed healthily in any ministry. When supervision is neglected, the active commitment of laypeople to the ministry disappears. So responsibility is essential in the ministry. We do this in three main ways: monthly reports, ministry guidance, and time to share ministry. It is necessary to provide a report and decide what policies to do with it, and the leadership group needs to decide what to do with the report and what to do in carrying it out. Not everyone likes to submit a report. However, this is always something to come together and must be a part of the ministry because it is important. Reasonable demand of people for a report is to help them stay true to preparing for it. In theory, it is to accept responsibility, but it is also something to see how the ministry is doing. Feedback is important in any way. If people submit a report and there is no feedback at all, it is unknown if it is accepted or if someone has read it. If there is no response, the report will not be submitted again.