

Series:

Power Broker

Session Ten:

“How to Empower People Through the Church”

6-15-06

A. The Mission of the Church

To empower Christians to become personally involved in ministry, in keeping with their unique mix of gifts, talents and passions.

B. What is the Church?

1. The Church is an Institution of Tradition
2. The Church is a Museum for Saints
3. The Church is a Hospital for Sinners
4. The Church is a School for Ministers

C. Who are the Players in a Typical Church?

1. The Ministers:
“a person assigned to carry out spiritual functions”
 - a. Formally schooled in theology
 - b. Employed in a spiritual position
 - c. Competent to minister
2. The Laypeople:
“a person not skilled in a given profession”
 - a. Assumed to be ignorant of theology
 - b. Employed in a secular position
 - c. Not competent to minister

D. What is Expected from the Average Layperson?

1. Attend meetings
2. Give money
3. Support programs
4. Avoid conflict

E. What are the Marks of Spiritual Maturity?

1. Attends more meetings
2. Gives more money
3. Supports more programs
4. Avoids more conflict

F. How do You rate a Successful Church?

1. Lots of people in attendance
2. Lots of programs in the bulletin
3. Lots of acceptance in the ranks

G. How does God Rate a Successful Church?

1. The leaders meet God’s rigid qualifications.
Ephesians 4:11a
2. The professionals have appropriate spiritual gifts.
Ephesians 4:11b
3. The programs produce competent ministers.
Ephesians 4:12
4. The results are measured in belief and behavior.
Ephesians 4:13

H. What Should You Find in an Empowered Church?

1. Proficiency
You are encouraged to discover your spiritual gifts.
2. Ownership
You are given everything you need to be competent.
3. Work
You are assigned a position to refine your capabilities.
4. Encouragement
You are commended for performing your work of service.
5. Release
You are given permission for personal ministry.

I. What are the Risks of Empowering Laypeople?

1. They may not attend as many meetings.
2. They may not give as much money.
3. They may not support as many programs.
4. They may not wait for official blessing.

J. What is the Mission of the Church?

To empower Christians to become personally involved in ministry, in keeping with their unique mix of gifts, talents and passions.