



Measure Your Success by Observing Your Ministry Menu

What is your menu for the day?

Get self ready (brush teeth, comb hair, put make-up on, cook breakfast, make bed(s), carry kids to school, clean house, go to work, do the work required, pick kids up, cook dinner, set down and listen to news, wash clothes, wash dishes, get ready for bed, etc.

For the man...somewhat different, maybe some outdoor responsibilities...priming with exception of cosmetics.

What about your ministry menu?

Do you start by reading the Word of God? What about making sure the kids are developing spiritually? What about finding out what is needed in your church...maybe some immediate needs?

Do you give more than you get? Do you live from day to day or do you look for ways to gain insight into the future?

What about some ministries in which you feel you need to be supporting?

What are our responsibilities as to ministering to others?

The most important ministry mission is to:

- **Make arrangements/preparations for our home going.**

What does this entail?

- ✓ **Soul preparation...Asking forgiveness for our sins and repent of those sins (turning from them). Making sure our names are in the Lamb's Book of Life.**
Romans 10:9-10, *"If you confess (declare) with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."*
- ✓ **Letting your immediate family know about your finances, your desires in how the possessions are to be distributed via a will or statement about who gets what,**

where things are, what are the arrangements for funeral and burial necessities, etc.

- **Making Life Enjoyable, Edifying, Eclectic, Eleemosynary, and Enduring.**

*Eclectic = One who selects seemingly best of various ideas or styles.
Eleemosynary = gratuitous; generous in assistance to the poor and needy.*

- ✓ **Enjoying life by living every day like it was the last. Get involved with others, go places, and learn new things.**
- ✓ **Maintaining...keeping our physical health strong; our mental health alert by playing games, writing, reading books, helping others.**
- ✓ **Making sure we are doing the work of the Lord, i.e. sharing Jesus with others, sharing and caring for others (especially family members).**

In other words:

Map out your strategy for the successful launching of your soul!

You do not want to leave this world with an attitude of:

“I’ll be gone, I want have to worry about it. Let them take care of the issues and problems I have encountered.”

This is a selfish and ungodly attitude of how to live life. A true Christian should never think this way.

Next on the Menu...Your Ministry Menu!

- ***Modify Your Merits to Include Humble Acts of Giving.***

- ✓ ***Humble acts of giving are acts in which God receives the glory in lieu of you, the giver.***

Do you give to expect something in return?

Do you give expecting your giving to cause others to glorify God and for them to realize God truly works in the hearts of individuals to meet the needs of others.

- ✓ ***Giving generously is not just giving an enormous amount of money...or even giving more than what the average giver gives. Giving generously is giving without expecting a return on your investment (\$\$\$ wise). Giving generously is giving with your heart and not just your pocketbook.***

Too many Christians give to missions and never pray for those on the mission field or those the missionaries are ministering to.

✓ **What are the basic biblical principles for Christian giving?"**

Matthew 6:1-4, *"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."*

1 Corinthians 16:1-2, *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come."*

2 Corinthians 8:9-15, *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. I give my opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this, but also to desire to do it. But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability. For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality - at this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, so that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality; as it is written, "HE WHO gathered MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO gathered LITTLE HAD NO LACK."*

2 Corinthians 9:6-7, *"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

Ten Principles for Christian Giving.

1. The Lord Jesus expects and requires us to give. Jesus said to His disciples, "when you give" not "if you give" (Matthew 6:2)

2. The Lord Jesus wants us to give for the right reasons. When we give, we must be careful to examine our motives. We ought to give for the glory of God and the good of His people. We must desire His approval of our giving, rather than the praise and admiration of people.

3. The Lord Jesus wants us to practice benevolent or charitable giving. Jesus said "When you give to the poor . . ." (Matthew 6:2-3).

4. The Lord Jesus reminds us that our giving is ultimately to the all-seeing heavenly Father. Jesus said "When you give . . . ; your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:3-4).

5. The Bible teaches that Christian giving is an act of worship. On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save" (1 Corinthians 16:2). Paul here teaches the Corinthians that their taking up of the collection is an act of worship which is to be a part of their regular Lord's Day worship.

6. The Bible teaches that Christian giving should be done in light of the Christ's Giving of His Life. Christ's self-giving is now the standard for our giving! Our giving is to be inspired and instructed by Christ's inexpressible gift. In light of such a challenge, who could possibly satisfy himself with asking "how little a percentage is acceptable for me to give?"

7. The Bible teaches that Christian giving should be done in accordance with our means. "For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have" (2 Corinthians 8:12). Put another way Paul is saying that you should give in proportion to what God has given you. He said it this way in 1 Corinthians 16:2, "each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper."

8. The Bible teaches that the liberality of God's blessings to us is connected to the liberality of our Christian giving. Though it may seem strange, both Jesus and Paul emphasize that there is a relation between our giving to the Lord and the Lord's giving to us. As someone once said: "The desire to be generous and the means to be generous both come from God."

9. The Bible teaches that Christian giving must be willing giving, free giving. We learn this in 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion." It is required by God, but always willingly given by the believer.

10. The Bible teaches that Christian giving ought to be cheerful giving. As Paul says "God loves a cheerful giver." energetic, merry givers.

Is there joy in your heart as you give? Can you truly be characterized as a "cheerful giver"?

1 Peter 3:8-12, *"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. ¹¹ They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and*

pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Marks of the Christian Life according to Peter:

- *Unified...one mind! Hearts United!*
Words of Jesus who prayed for his people that they might be one, as He and His Father are One (John 17:21-23).
Paul reminding the Christians in Corinth that they are one body in spite of all their different qualities and gifts 1 Cor. 12-12-31)...and that the Christians in Rome might be of one mind (Romans 12:4,16). Over and over again, Paul pleaded with the church in the many cities to be of one mind in the Lord.
- *Genuinely Sympathetic...Rejoice with those that rejoice...and weep with those that weep. When one suffers all suffer; when one rejoices...all rejoice.*
- *Exhibits Brotherly Love...Jesus said, “New Commandment I give you...to love one another; this will all men know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”*
- *Shows compassion! God...showed so much compassionate that He gave us His only Son...to die for us.*
- *Humble heart...humility with contrite heart!*
Genuine and sincere...repentant.
- *Forgiving*

As we contemplate on our “MINISTRY MENUS”...are we thinking of ways in which we can minister to others?

Are YOU satisfied with Your MINISTRY MENU and do you feel justified in taking all the free gifts God has provided you?

Do you feel you are successful in measuring up to your MINISTRY MENU?

Giving Living is learning that no rule of success will work if you won't.

The Giving Living Principle is learning that:

- ✓ **God is our source**
- ✓ **We must plant to grow**
- ✓ **We need to expect a miracle**
- ✓ **We need to keep that heavenly vision.**

