

FUNCTION NOT POSITION

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God has not called us not to occupy positions but to serve Him (Mark 10:35-45). James and John were asking for position and prestige but Jesus responds and tells them that the Kingdom of God is not about sitting or about position but about serving and function. The other disciples began to envy James and John because they thought that Jesus had granted their request. They thought that they would lose out on greatness and prestige. Our greatness shows when we function. The word minister means one who serves. When the minister stops doing what needs to be done, they cease to be a minister. When there is no service, there is strife and people begin to compete for positions. Each of us has something to do wherever we are positioned. Each of us has a place of service. If a part of the physical body does not function as it was designed to, the body suffers, it is ill. The body of Christ is handicapped when some of the members have positions but are not functioning. There's a place where only you can fit.

THINGS THAT HINDER US FROM FUNCTIONING PROPERLY:

1. IGNORANCE AND LACK OF UNDERSTANDING: We may be ignorant of the gifts God has given us and how to use them effectively. Consider your interests and areas of skill. The people who made the first inventions were deeply committed Christians pg. 74-75 (You can fly like the eagle by Steve Ogan) like Nicholas

Copernicus (the earth rotates around the sun (Isaiah 40:22)). Blaise Pascal (adding machine), The Wright Brothers (airplane (Isaiah 60:8)). Thomas Edison (bulb, phonograph) with 1093 patents to his name. Dr. James Young invented anesthetic properties of chloroform while reading the Bible (Genesis 2:21). We also have some Ugandans like Jennifer Musisi and Allen Kagina. We have no reason not to impact our communities.

2. SELF-INTEREST: If we are interested only in ourselves we become more concerned about position and power than by accomplishing God's purposes.

3. UN-SURRENDERED RIGHTS: when we have made the Lord Jesus as our Saviour and not our Lord we may feel we have the right to a position.

4. LACK OF TRAINING OR SKILL: It is up to the leadership to equip members for effective service (Ephesians 4:11-12).

5. FEAR OF FAILURE: People are afraid of stepping out to do something they have never done before. People think that when they fail they will be looked down upon by others.

6. LAZINESS: It is easier to sit back and let others work. Church becomes a place where we go to be blessed instead of a place we

go to in order to serve.

WHAT DO WE DO?

1. Appreciate each other for our differences instead of separating because of those differences.
2. Avoid pride concerning spiritual gifts: They are tools to work with and not toys to play with. They are not trophies to boast about. Gifts are given by God's grace not on merit.
3. The quality of your work and the quality of your character have real lasting benefits not what kind of gifts you have or how many.
4. Serve don't sit: Keep your eyes and ears open to the needs around you. Be a good faithful steward who needs to do what needs to be done.

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First appeared as a sermon to Deliverance Church Makerere Hill Uganda May 4, 2014

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