

# The Important Role Of Ministry Leaders



## To get us started

In your experience, what does a pastor do during a typical week?

In your opinion, what should a pastor do during a typical week?

## 2 Corinthians 10

In 2 Corinthians chapters 10, 11 and 12, the Apostle Paul is defending himself. He had come under attack by so called "Super Apostles." (See 2 Cor 11:5) Context would suggest they not only attacked Paul's authority as an Apostle of Jesus ("sent one" of Jesus, sent by Jesus), they also attacked his gifts for ministry. Chapter 10 verse 10 and Chapter 11 verse 6 make it clear one of those attacks launched a direct assault on his ability as a public speaker.

Ideally, we'd read through all of chapters 10, 11, and 12 to get the full flavor of Paul's defense of his authority as an Apostle of Jesus. After reading all of chapter 10, for the sake of time, we'll stop to highlight a few key sections in chapters 11 and 12.

As you read through chapter 10, which arguments do you find most memorable against the attacks on Paul's authority? *Read 2 Corinthians chapter 10.*

According to this chapter, in what ways should a church leader be valued?

## **2 Corinthians 11:1-4**

In this section Paul sets up his reason for fighting boasting with boasting, foolish though it is. This "boasting" continues through chapter 12:10. For what reasons is Paul willing to speak this way? *Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-4*

## **2 Corinthians 12:11-21**

Now that Paul's boasting is over, he drives the goal of his role as a church leader home. His goal was not to get rich off of the Corinthians. His goal was not to become famous across the region. His goal was not to get anything from the Corinthians. What was his goal? *Read 2 Corinthians 12:11-21 to find out!*

### ***Digging Deeper - Ezekiel***

*The prophet Ezekiel had a challenging task. Identify 3 things. What was the task? What made the task so challenging? How does God encourage Ezekiel for the work that lies ahead? Read Ezekiel 2:1-3:9 to identify these three things!*

*What was the task?*

*What made the task so challenging?*

*How does God encourage Ezekiel for the work that lies ahead?*

*Read Ezekiel 3:16-21. These verses are at the same time both remarkably intimidating and immensely comforting for church leaders. For what reasons is this true?*

*Remarkably Intimidating?*

*Immensely Comforting?*

Pastor David Rosenau is a second career WELS pastor with a very unique story. This week's video is about 12 minutes long and provides an insight into what a good ministry leader looks like.

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*watch video*

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### **Titus 2:11-3:11**

Paul not only encourages Titus to work hard in ministry, but he also first reminds Titus why he ought to work hard. *Then* he clearly directs Titus to what that hard work ought to look like. *Read Titus 2:11-3:11*

Why work hard?

Work hard at what?

### **Application - Use**

Good leadership in the church is not found in the form of extraordinary gifts. It's found in the one who knows his sin is big, but also knows the grace of God is far bigger, even for a sinner like him! This kind of church leader is able to serve others with the same truths of law and gospel that first apply to him.

The lesson here is more than "work hard." Lots of ministry leaders work hard. The question is, "What are they working hard at?" Even more, "Why are they working hard?" Plenty of ministry leaders have worked hard at the wrong things. Plenty more have worked hard for the wrong reasons.

Identify examples of what it might look like for a ministry leader to work hard at the wrong things.

Identify examples of what it might look like for a ministry leader to work hard for the wrong reasons.

In what ways can you encourage, not only your pastor, but all your ministry leaders to work hard for the right reasons, and at the right things?

In the case of a lazy ministry leader, what would godly encouragement look like?