

The Minister's Person as Minister and Theologian
Spiritual Gifts and More
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July 16, 2006

What is the giftedness we have as we serve others?

What is the theology we have as we work with others?

Dick and Miller's book – a 3rd generation book.

3 generations to development

I'm guessing we started talking about spiritual gifts about 20-25 years ago.

1. 1st Generation – ca. 1978 – Identification

Not as revolutionary in SDA church as in evangelical churches.

Many other churches had arguments against the gifts continuing.

Cessationist theology or dispensational theology

The age of apostolic movement had passed away.

They used that argument to avoid the tongues movement.

SDA's believed in the perpetuity of the spiritual gifts because of EGW.

I still think that SDA's use this too mechanistically.

2. 2nd Generation – 1990's Networking

Associate at Willow Creek who worked on this.

Looked at a test and worked with the counselor after the test and then an attempt to assign folks to their ministry in the church.

Bruce Bugbee was the Willow Creek man.

Together Jon and Skip MacCarty worked at Pioneer on discovery.

Part of that work was to give first consideration on their salvation.

At that time the intent was to put everybody that got baptized thru that program.

3. The book by Dick and Miller we have moved to the 3rd Generation

The basic thesis is from the personal profile puzzle

Bottom of page 7 – 3 points to feedback:

1. Language of the church leadership inventory slots are too churchy
2. Identify gifts and support theologically
3. How to live as gifted people is most important

The gifts test did nothing to develop the gifts or deploy them. (page 7)

They don't like Myers' -Briggs Type Indicator

They see the MBTI as personality rather than temperament.

Personality is something people can alter.

They didn't want to use the MBTI alone, but demonstrate how people acted in their ministry.

Page 8 and 9 talks about the variety of evangelism gifted people and shows how they needed help to determine their personalities, temperaments, leadership types, spirituality web, etc.

What is the role of the pastor?

Part of the process—be totally involved and knows what is going on.

See the giftedness and find a ministry that fits into an appropriate area to function rather than just designing this for the nominating committee.

If I were to write a book like this right now, I'd add Blackaby's book idea first—Discover God's will for your life and then tie it into God's direction.

Right from the very beginning you must have a presupposition that ministry is critical to being a Christian and a part of the Body of Christ.

The key is to involve people in a discovery that puts people into ministry.

The part of this book I found most revealing were the leadership interaction styles.

Dreamer, Thinker, Pleaser, Director

You can see what happens.

Jon thought he was a dreamer, but came out as director.

Jon Dybdahl's theology:

Scripture is always the norm and always true.

Scripture is in the middle in the worldview—it's from God, not a normal book.

Theology on the other hand is always human.

Why? Because it is the human attempt to understand scripture for a particular situation.

Two different kinds of theology:

Formal (head) theology

Real (lived) theology

Theology arises out of 2 things:

1. Mission

Paul started with mission before theology because of his interaction with scripture

2. Context

That is to say, Who is doing theology and who they are doing it for?

Best theologies are ones that are true to scripture and speak powerfully to the context in which they are given.

Even SDA's believe that theology changes—just added 28th belief.

This is present truth.

People change and the context changes.

Core of the mission is the same, but the theology changes as you go along.

Example: burial practices of Africa

We see with new eyes when the context changes, for this student at the seminary asked Jon to do a study/dissertation on burial practices.

We should teach people to go through the process of theology like the early pioneers did in wrestling in scripture.

We need to do that, rather than reading the results of other researchers.

We look at reality and scripture through certain filters, we have specific glasses on:

One filter is:

1. Is it possible?
2. Is it important?
3. Have you reflected on the thing?
4. Have you experienced it?

Theology and scripture are different.

Theology is a human endeavor, affected by the context.

Somebody from a different culture provide better interpretations than someone from the same culture.