

## **I am My Ministry: Perspectives on Ministry and Life**

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### **Workshop Description**

For many of us in ministry, our ministry becomes our life. There is something beautiful in living out one's calling in service to Christ, but there can also be dangers in too closely associating our identity with our calling. In this workshop we will seek a biblical balance between life and calling.

### **Introduction**

#### **The Blessings of Calling and Ministry**

1. We all have a calling on our life, that calling was unto salvation and service.  
Gal. 1:15-16 (cf. 1 Cor. 7:17-24)
2. God the Holy Spirit has sovereignly given us gifts and ministries.  
1 Cor. 12:4-11
3. God's call on our life, shapes the direction and priorities of our life.  
Acts 20:24

#### **The Challenges and Pitfalls**

1. Some may enter ministry without a sense of call and approach it like a job.
2. Some may enter ministry without sensitivity to family.
3. Sometimes we can so identify with our ministry, that we forget the body of Christ or the importance of receiving ministry.
4. It is possible to substitute ministry for Jesus.
5. It is possible to burn out while serving

#### **Counsels for those in ministry**

1. Remember that your first calling is to be an obedient child of God and follower of Jesus, no matter what ministry you have.
2. Do not prioritize in a straitjacket
3. Remember that your ministries are given to you by God, but your ministry is the sphere where you serve and exercise your gifts. Ministries may change, fields of labor may change, do not seek to "possess" a ministry.
4. Even when a ministry may end (for any reason) your calling as God's child and Christ's disciple does not end.

**Resources:**

Albert N. Martin *You Lift Me Up: Overcoming Ministry Challenges* (Mentor, 2013).

Murray, David. *Reset: Living a Grace-Paced Life in a Burnout Culture* (Crossway, 2017).

Murray, Shona. *Refresh: Embracing a Grace-Paced Life in a World of Endless Demands* (Crossway, 2017).

Tripp, Paul David. *Dangerous Calling* (Crossway, 2012).