



## ***Unleashing: A Bucket Of Grace***

### *Icebreaker:*

How are you doing adjusting to a world without live sports on TV?

### *The Study:*

God doesn't save us so that we can sit in a church and hang out till Jesus returns. We are blessed to be a blessing. We are saved to serve. Being unleashed for ministry is where the adventure of faith really begins. This study – based on 1 Peter 4:8 – answers two important questions about ministry that we should be clear on.



### ***First Things First: Let's Be Sure We're On The Same Page***

1. We stressed in the teaching that “*Every member is a minister*” (i.e. should be involved in ministry). But in many churches it is commonly believed that ‘we hire the minister to do ministry for us’. Where do you think this – wrong – idea came from?

2. The Bible couldn't be any clearer what the “professional” minister's job is to be in the church. Read Ephesians 4:11-12 and put it in your own words.

3. Read 1 Peter 4:8-11. Who's doing the work of ministry in these verses?

And what specific types of ministry-work are mentioned here? (There are at least 4 things Peter mentions.)

So if you agree with the following two statements, sign and date below as a covenant of agreement with them.

*I am a minister.*

*God has given me a ministry.*

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### ***Now Let's Talk About Our Ministry: What Should Be The Motivation For My Ministry?***

4. “*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly,*” (1 Peter 4:8a). We'd agree that love should be our main motivation for serving others. But it's more than possible to do good for the *wrong* reasons.

We've placed two 1-minute clips from the show “The Good Place” on our website to view: “Eleanor's Point Total” and “Tahani Learns Her Motivation”. (Go to [bridgeway-church.org](http://bridgeway-church.org), clip on “Sermons”, scroll down to “Sermons – Podcasts”).

If you are able, watch the two clips, then discuss them. What other things might motivate us to do good besides love?

5. The Bible is filled with examples of people doing good for bad reasons. Read the following passages, then diagnose what their motivation was:

*Luke 10:38-42*

*Luke 18:10-14 (What was the Pharisee's motivation?)*

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

6. If my motivation for doing good is not from love, what do I accomplish? Read 1 Corinthians 13:3 and discuss this. Does it seem fair that God would say this?

7. Here's the toughest question of all, so take some time on this. Discuss your thoughts first, then look up the verses to fill out your insights.

*How do I discern the true motivation of my heart?*

*What are some insights that come from these verses: Psalm 139:23-24, Psalm 141:5; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Hebrews 4:12, James 5:16*

### ***What Should Be The Purpose For My Ministry?***

8. "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, **since love covers a multitude of sins.**" (1 Peter 4:8). What do you think Peter means? What does this have to do with my ministry?

9. Bear listed nearly a dozen things that ought to happen in a community over time, as a faithful church is serving the Lord in ministry. Brainstorm your own list. See if you can come up with 6-10 things.

10. If Bridgeway suddenly vanished, what difference do you think it would make for our community?

11. With the coronavirus raging, we're in a season where it's important to "wash your hands of people" (literally, and figuratively!) How can followers of Christ still do ministry in this environment? We shared three ideas in the message. Discuss these or come up with your own Spirit-led ideas.

- Promote peace wherever you go. (Romans 12:18)
- Think creatively of how you can serve. (Hebrews 10:24)
- Find simple, natural ways to talk about the Lord. Because if you can't share your hope in Christ *now*, when will you? (Colossians 4:3-6)
- Other ideas?

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