



*Alpha & Omega
Christian Worship Center
1110 39th St, Newport News, VA 23607*

Call to Ministry

Pastor K. Franklin, 6 Dec 2008

Document is available at <http://www.alphaomegaworship.org/Resources.htm>

God is the one who calls to Ministry.

God is the one who equips.

We are the one who determine our own destiny by our choices and actions.

The primary focus of our Ministry training will be on principles and responsibility that will be required of one as they mature in the Gospel.

The secondary focus will be on the knowledge and ministry skills that will be required to carry out the office.

We live in a day and time when many know and preach the word but they fall far short when it comes to upholding the standard of God and living out a Godly example before the church.

These two requirements go hand and hand and the first far outweighs the second.

1 Corinthians 13:

1. Though I speak with the tongues of men and the tongues of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
2. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.
3. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.
4. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.
5. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
6. Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth,
7. Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
8. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

The foundation for the ministry at Alpha and Omega is Love and Faith in Truth. Love must be the rock of that foundation. We know Jesus is our cornerstone, and Jesus is the son of God, and that God is love. We should love the world so much that we don't want to see any lost but that they all might be saved.



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2 Peter 3:

9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**(1 Timothy 2:4)

It does not matter how great the programs are, how big or beautiful the building, if souls are lost. Just as God so loved the world that he sent Jesus to save us, we must always walk in love and first and foremost see to the salvation of men.

THE CALL

St Matthew 22:

14. For **many are called, but few are chosen.**

St Matthew 20:

1. For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.
2. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into the vineyard.
3. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,
4. And said unto them; **Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you.** And they went their way.
5. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.
6. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all day idle?
7. They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.
8. So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.
9. And when they came they were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.
10. But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.
11. **And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house,**
12. Saying, These have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal to us which have borne the burden and heat of the day.
13. But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong; didst not thou agree with me for a penny?
14. Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto the last, even as unto thee.
15. **Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own?** Is thine eye evil, because I am good?
16. **So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.**

In the parable above, we see how God reserves the right to call, choose, and reward as it pleases him. Are we not the workman ship of his hands (**Ephesians 2:10**)? Is he not the potter and we the clay



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(**Jeremiah 18:1-4**)? Should we not be mad against him for the choices and plans that he has for our lives? Should we not submit ourselves to him and his will (**James 4:7 – entire chapter**)?

We should not be angry at God for what he does with the things that he created and own. We should not be comparing ourselves to others but be satisfied and content with what God is doing in our lives. Even if we are only a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord, is that not better than any other place we could be, especially if that is where God wants us to be?

Qualifications for Ministry

1 Timothy 3:

1. This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.
2. A bishop then must be **blameless**, the husband of **one wife**, **vigilant**, **sober**, of **good behavior**, given to **hospitality**, apt to **teach**;
3. **Not** given to wine, no **striker**, not **greedy** of **filthy lucre**; but **patient**, not a **brawler**, not **covetous**;
4. One that **ruleth** well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;
5. (For is a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of god?)
6. Not a **novice**, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.
7. Moreover he must have a **good report of them which are without**; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

If you look at these qualifications, the first thing you may recognize is that it really has little to do with their spiritual knowledge and skills.

All these qualification are factors and issue that lie in an individual's personal life. Yes, it matters how you live and how you treat people. In professional sports today, especially in football, athletes are finding that their extra circular activities that they do outside their profession and impact their employment and potentially their freedom. Several high profile cases have ended with high paid sports figures being convicted and serving time for breaking the law. Even average people have had personal conduct issues that have caused them to be terminated or demoted.

It works the same in the spiritual. God holds his ministers that a standard because they represent him to the word. They are his spokesman in this world.

If you say, it is not fair, remember the parable with which we started this discussion. Also "Too whom much is given, much shall be required".

St Luke 12:

48. But he that knew not, and did not commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For **unto whosoever much is given, of him shall be much required**: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.



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Let's look at definitions from the passage above:

Blameless // G423 // Anepileptos // an-ep-eel'-ape-tos //

1. Not apprehended, that which cannot be laid hold of
2. That which cannot be reprehended, not open to censure, irreproachable, blameless

One // G3391 // Mia // mee'-ah //

1. Only one, someone one, first, a certain

Vigilant // G3524 // Nephaleos // nay-fal'-eh-os //

1. Sober, temperate
 - a. Abstaining from wine, either entirely or at least from its immoderate use
 - b. Of things free from all wine, as vessels, offerings

Sober // G4998 // Sophron // so'-frone //

1. Of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses
2. Curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate, discrete

Behaviour // G2887 // Kosmios // kos'-mee-os //

1. Well arranged, seemly, modest, of good behavior

Hospitality // G5382 // Philoxenos // fil-ox'-en-os //

1. Hospitable, generous to guests

Teach // G1317 // Didaktikos // did-ak-tik-os' //

1. Apt and skilful in teaching

No (wine) // G3361 // un a primary particle of qualified negation

1. No, not lest, God forbid

Striker // G4131 // plektes // plake'-tace //

1. Bruiser, ready for a blow
2. A pugnacious, contentious, quarrelsome person

Lucre // G146 // Aischrokerdes // ahee-skhroke-er-dace //

1. Eager for base gain, greedy for money

Patient // G1933 // Epieikes // ep-ee-i-kace' //

1. Seemingly, suitable
2. Equitable, fair, mild, gentle

Brawler // G269 // Amachos // am'-akh-os //

1. Not to be withstood, invincible



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2. Not contentious
3. Abstaining from fighting

Covetous // G866 // Aphilarguros // af-il-ar'-goo-ros //

1. Not loving money, not avaricious