

The Personal Priorities of a Worship Minister

I. The Lesson

Have you ever been burned out? Have you ever struggled to maintain a life full of passion for not only the Lord but also ministry? Have you ever “hit the wall” when trying to get the juggling act of life figured out? Well, you are not alone.

We’ve all heard about priorities, even from a young age. “Get your priorities right!” we’ve all heard at some time. Those who have their priorities in the wrong order are those who are commonly frustrated, either by the lack of time for certain activities or because of the self-condemnation resulting from not meeting self-set expectations. We’ve all experienced a level of these emotions at one point or another.

One thing is for sure: It is the issue of our priorities that either inhibits or aids our ability to “go the distance” in life and in ministry. God never intended that we minister for Him at the expense of our marriages, families, and physical well-being. The following priority structure is Biblical and widely considered accurate (although different sources may have a slightly different order).

Why is it important to have proper Biblical priorities?

- To _____ the race

1 Cor. 9:24 "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it."

What are the proper Biblical priorities? In order, they are...

1) Your Relationship with _____

- It is more important to God what we do **with** Him than what we do **for** Him.

Matt. 22:37-38 "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the **first** and great commandment."

→ Time spent ministering **for** God must never replace our time spent ministering **to** God. (see “The Priorities of Worship Ministry”)

Matt. 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

2) Your Relationship with Your _____

- One of the main areas the enemy seeks to attack ministers – especially those who are in the worship ministry – is in his/her marriage

- Neglecting to spend time/effort with your spouse opens that relationship up for strife/attack

Eph. 5:33 "...Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."

3) Your Relationship with and management of Your _____
- Although originally spoken of overseers and deacons, observe Paul's words to Timothy regarding qualifications for ministry...

1 Tim. 3:5, 12 "If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?"
"... must manage his children and his household well."

4) Your _____

"You can lose your ministry by not taking care of your own body (physically, mentally, and emotionally)"

- Dick Iverson

- Exercise, healthy eating patterns, getting sufficient sleep (6 to 8 hours is recommended for optimal alertness during the day)

- Physical, mental, and emotional deficiencies can severely inhibit our ability to minister effectively

1 Cor. 3:17 "...For God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple." (NIV)

5) Your _____

- If you are not employed in full-time, paid ministry, your job **must** come before your ministry

- Your job **enables** you to minister (no job, no money, no strings/guitar/amp/sticks/etc.)

- This has direct implications upon priority numbers two and three

- Your job is partly how you provide for your spouse and family

Prov. 12:24 "The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor."

6) Your _____

- This is the "love your neighbor as yourself" portion of the commands of Jesus given in Matthew 22.

- How effectively can you minister if your spouse is mad at you, your kids despise you, your body is grossly neglected, you are stressed out, and you have no money?

Gen. 28:12 "Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it."

- Ascending = ministering to God

- Descending = ministering on God's behalf¹

¹ Gentile, Ernest. Worship God! Pg. 90 City Christian Publishing. Portland, Oregon

II. Discussion

- 1) Of the priorities listed above, which is the hardest for you to maintain?
- 2) What are some of the byproducts – as worship ministers – of not making a daily commitment to putting God first in your life?
- 3) What are some of the physical, emotional, and mental issues that could “disqualify” or inhibit our ability – as worship ministers – to effectively minister?
- 4) What are some ways to keep ourselves accountable to get our priorities in order?

III. Prayer Points

- 1) Pray that God would forgive our incorrect prioritization.
- 2) Pray that God would give us grace to reprioritize our lives to reflect Biblical priorities – and that we’d be able to maintain it!
- 3) Pray that God would establish our worship ministry in priorities that promote healthy Christian lives of ministry.