

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

83 “*Don't ever say the minister!*”

There is a lot of lip-service about the ministry of the laity. But I found surprisingly few Christian professionals or members of the laity *really* accept that *all* Christians are called to be “*full-time*” ministers.

Several years ago, an older Christian pastor and author with whom I was visiting made the point with me very dramatically. I had come to visit him to discuss what my role should be after I tried to fully surrender my will and life to the Lord. During the conversation, I referred to my pastor as “*the minister.*”

Forcefully pointing his finger at me, this elder statesman said sternly, “***Don't ever say the minister!***” And then he concluded, “*All Christians are ministers!*”

That is the clear teaching of Ephesians 4 in which it is stated that God has called some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers “*to equip the saints (all believers) for the work of ministry.*” (Ephesians 4:11-12 RSV)

Later, it was pointed out to me that less than 3 percent of Christians are professional “ministers” or “missionaries.” Obviously, this number cannot reach the world for Christ. Instead, it is the task of all Christians to see themselves and all other believers as *ministers* and to recognize that it is through all such *ministers* that the world will be won for Jesus.

Not many are called to be *equipping* ministers. But we are all called to *minister*. I am so glad my old mentor set me straight!

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2018 Marvin J. Martin