

The Layman

Gene Warr

I. Introduction.

A. Laymen often feel like second class citizens, but they are where the action is.

II. Who Layman are.

A. Laymen from a biblical perspective.

1. God had a specific way he wanted the sacrifice to be offered and there was a specific sacrifice that was to be offered. (Genesis 4; Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22)
2. In Genesis everyone functioned as his own priest.
3. God instituted the professional priesthood in Exodus 20 to show the inadequacy of man's ways, to give a shadow of Christ's sacrifice and to serve the pattern of what was to come.
4. Everybody is now a priest. Each person has the right, responsibility and privilege of representing Jesus wherever they are at. (Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:5-6; Acts 1:8)

B. What has happened historically regarding laymen.

1. The role of laymen was diminished in church history.
2. Some responded by arguing that layman should be doing the ministry. It took root in the Reformation.

III. What laymen are supposed to be doing.

A. God has given us plenty to do.

1. The pastor's job is to equip the laymen to do the work of the ministry. (Ephesians 4)
2. Your job is your pulpit. (Matthew 6:33)
3. What we are supposed to do has as much to do with what it looks like as where it came from. (John 3:6)
4. Whatever we look at as secular is spiritual if we are giving our lives to change that which is eternal.
5. Your weakness can become your strength. (1 Corinthians 4)
6. God has given you particular gifts and make you special for the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:11; 14)

7. God created us for his glory. (Isaiah 43:7)

8. God wants every believer to be complete in Christ. (Romans 8:29; John 15:8, 16; Luke 19:10)

IV. How laymen can do what they are supposed to be doing.

A. If we are going to invest our lives we should have a life worth investing. (2 Timothy 2:21; John 12:32)

B. To invest our lives....

1. We must be born again.

2. We should be growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. (Isaiah 37:31; John 14:23; Psalm 1)

Application questions:

1. How would you explain the role of the layman in the ministry?

2. What do you need to do to enhance your ministry as a layman?

3. What hindrances have kept you from layman ministry? What will you do to overcome these?
