

## **LOCAL CHURCH LABORERS**

### **Romans 12:4-6**

**Let's look at God's design for local church laborers**

From Romans 12:4-6 note these three things

1. We don't all have the same function (4)
2. We do all belong to one local body (5)
3. Our various functions need to work together in one body (6)

#### **I. LEADING LABORERS** - I Peter 5:1-5

A. ELDERS: Honorable officials

1. Church leaders: See Acts 11:30, 15:2 and 20:17
2. These have authority in the church and the church has a responsibility toward them  
- I Tim. 5:17

B. SHEPHERDS: Wise guides

1. Guarding his flock from error - Acts 20:28-31
2. Providing oversight by being an example - I Peter 5:2-3

C. OVERSEERS: Godly directors

1. Taking care of the church of God - I Timothy 3:5
2. A man of good conduct and sound doctrine - Titus 1:5-9

D. DEACONS: Yielded servers

1. Devoted and discerning men - I Timothy 3:8-13
2. Designated with overseers in Philippians 1:1

#### **II. DISCIPLING LABORERS** - Acts 14:21-22

A. PASTORS: Giving sustenance

1. Equipping the saints for service - Ephesians 4:11-13
2. Preaching the Word - II Timothy 4:1-5

B. TEACHERS: Giving instruction

1. See Barnabus in Acts 11:22-26
2. Note James in Acts 15:13-21

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### III. CARING LABORERS - I Corinthians 12:25

#### A. MERCY: Comforting the afflicted

1. Examples
  - a. The Philippian jailor - Acts 16:31-34
  - b. Philemon in Philemon 5-7
2. Ask: Who around me is hurting?

#### B. HOSPITALITY: Opening your home

1. Examples:
  - a. Opening to the church - See Lydia in Acts 16:40 and Philemon in Philemon 1-3
  - b. Opening to travelers - See Gaius in III John 5-8
2. Ask: How can I use my home?

#### C. GIVING: Yielding your resources

1. Examples
  - a. Barnabus: Gave his money in Acts 4:36-37
  - b. Dorcus: Gave clothing in Acts 9:39
  - c. Epaphroditus: Gave assistance in Philippians 2:25-30
2. Ask: What can I give?

#### D. HELPS: Assisting the saints

1. Examples
  - a. Phoebe in Romans 16:1-2
  - b. Stephanas in I Corinthians 16:15-18
2. Ask: What do others need?

### IV. ORGANIZING LABORERS - I Corinthians 14:40

#### A. PROGRAM DIRECTORS - Acts 6:1-5

1. The Situation:
  - a. Some were needed to oversee the widow's tables
  - b. Those chosen needed to be reputable and spiritual
2. An application
  - We need spiritual people to oversee committees, SS, Awana, choir

#### B. TREASURERS - II Corinthians 8:18-2

### CONCLUSION: A local church needs laborers not lookers.

#### **God has equipped you to labor - See I Peter 4:10-11**

1. Use what you have wisely (10)
2. Use what God supplies (11a)
3. Use what you have to glorify Christ (11b)