

chr. subjects for study

7 1/2

AN OUTLINE FOR DISCUSSION

(A) THE MINISTERIAL SERVICE OF JESUS CHRIST

The New Church:

Jesus gave himself wholly in his life, ministry and death for the fulfilment of God's design for mankind. Because his death was the perfect sacrifice for sins he is the unique High Priest - a priesthood which is new and sui generis.

(B) THE RELATION BETWEEN THIS UNIQUE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

The whole Church has a priestly office. However, 'priesthood' translates two distinct Greek words:-

(a) Hierosune - a power to act in a priestly rôle.

(b) Hierateuma - a new condition that results from a priestly act already complete. *- new spiritual status - priestliness?*

In the New Testament there is no evidence for the idea of (a) except in relation to Jesus Christ and to the Old Testament priesthood; but (b) is used to describe the status of the Church.

(C) THE MINISTERIAL SERVICE OF THE WHOLE CHURCH

and known as the F. Gospel

As a result of the priestly sacrifice of Jesus Christ the Church receives the vocation to be a ministering servant.

(a) The whole Church serves the world by living and proclaiming the gospel - a priestly function because it is done for the glory of God (I Pet.2:9)

(b) Within the Church each Christian serves his fellow-members by ministering the love of God and employing his Spirit-given gifts.

(c) New Testament evidence shows that within the local churches ministerial leaders were appointed from the start for the upbuilding of the Church in unity and holiness.

- equal
- initial
- special

Apostle
Apostolic

(D) THE APOSTOLIC QUALITY OF THE CHURCH'S MINISTERIAL SERVICE

Jesus exercised his earthly ministry through the Holy Spirit (Luke 4: 1,18,20) and by the Spirit he chose the apostles. As he represented the Father by word and deed, so the apostles were to represent Christ by bearing witness to him and by following the example of his life. For this purpose the same Holy Spirit raised up the Twelve, Paul and the other ministers at the beginning of the Church and continues today to give to the Church the ministers necessary for the fulfilment of its priesthood. Thus it is by the Spirit that apostolicity is achieved. The Spirit that was in Christ is also within the Church, thus ensuring continuity.

(E) THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP

This continuity of the action of the Spirit is preserved for the people of God in a Church obliged to exist in different historical and cultural conditions. So, even at the Church's beginning, there is no single blueprint for its ministry of leadership. Nevertheless, in a diversity of structural expressions, certain essential functions are discernible. | These came to be embodied in the form of the so-called threefold ministry. + ?

95 A.D.

Clm Am. Ep Com. 42-44:
Eucharist -
Annoyia -