

# The Equipping Church

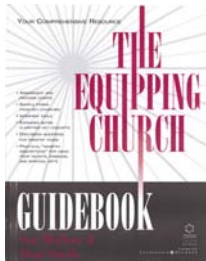
... is a church where<sup>1</sup>

- pastors and leaders enable church members to share in ministry
- people's gifts, talents and life callings are matched with areas of service
- ministry opportunities are recognized and developed
- the culture encourages the growth of a broad array of ministries
- a well-designed system addresses needs of every kind, both individual and corporate
- the pastor doesn't have to be all things to all people

From a list of seven biblical imperatives, principle 2 says: "God has a unique purpose or calling for each of us." God knew before we were born what He intended our purpose and calling to be. So we aren't wired to do just anything we want to. We can work and serve, but we often find our greatest joys when we understand God's purpose in our lives.

"In that light, consider the word volunteer, which is used freely in churches. It implies that you "choose" to do something optional or extraordinary. If you are created with a purpose and specifically gifted to accomplish that purpose, how is what you were created to do from the beginning of time an act of volunteerism? Gift-based service is not an optional activity, but the activity for which we were created."<sup>2</sup>

To help your congregation better understand the paradigm shift to lay mobilization (that is leaders equipping every Christian to work and serve in devotion to our Savior) you will want to check into the following two books:



**The Equipping Church** by Sue Mallory; Zondervan Publishing, 2001 or

**Equipping Church Guidebook** by Sue Mallory and Brad Smith; Zondervan Publishing, 2001

Both books are sponsored by Leadership Network, a parachurch organization serving the Christian church with cutting edge leadership materials.

1. [The Equipping Church](#), Sue Mallory, from cover jacket  
2. [Equipping Church Guidebook](#), Sue Mallory and Brad Smith, pg 31