

The Ordination of Luca D. Welch

As You Go into Ministry, Remember These Things

July 26, 2026

Ministry will bring joys you cannot presently imagine and burdens no one can fully explain beforehand. You will learn from Scripture, from people, and from experience. Remember these things.

1. Remember That Your Hardships Are Not Unique

- You will face criticism, disappointment, exhaustion, misunderstanding, and failed plans.
- Do not assume that hardship makes you a uniquely mistreated servant. Temptation is **“common to man,”** and other believers experience **“the same afflictions.”**
- Do not waste suffering by turning it into self-pity. Learn, pray, and keep going.
- **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Peter 5:9; Philippians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9.

2. Keep Yourself in Proper Perspective

- Ministry is serious; you are not the center of it. We flourish briefly and then are forgotten like the rest.
- Paul and Apollos were only servants through whom others believed. God gives the increase.
- Take truth and people seriously, but take yourself lightly. Enjoy studying, preaching, people, and the absurd moments that become good stories later.
- **Scripture:** Psalm 103:15-16; 1 Corinthians 3:5, 7.

3. Remain a Lifelong Learner

- Ordination does not mean that you have arrived; it recognizes your fitness to begin and continue the work.
- There will always be something in Scripture you have not noticed and someone from whom you can learn.
- Keep reading, asking questions, and changing your mind when Scripture requires it.
- **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 8:2; 2 Timothy 2:15; 4:13.

4. Count Blessings, Not Statistics

- Comparing this month with last month, this year with last year, or your church with another is a chase without a finish line.
- Comparisons produce pride when numbers rise and misery when they fall. God requires faithfulness, not impressive statistics.
- Count answered prayers, faithful friends, opportunities to teach, and people you have been permitted to love. Leave the scorekeeping to God.
- **Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 10:12; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Philippians 4:11.

5. Be Yourself

- Learn from other ministers, appreciate them, cooperate with them, and enjoy their friendship.
- Do not build your identity upon another person’s reputation, audience, or success. Never spend your ministry riding someone else’s coattails.
- Receive what is good from others without becoming an imitation. Be grateful for the stars, but drive your own wagon.
- **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 1:12-13; Galatians 6:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:21.

6. Keep Different Kinds of People in Your Life

- Do not surround yourself only with people who think, vote, dress, worship, work, and speak as you do.
- Know older and younger, educated and experienced, wealthy and poor, and people from different churches, cultures, and assumptions.
- You need not agree with everyone to learn from them. Different people expose blind spots and enlarge your ability to minister.
- **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 9:19-22; Romans 12:16.

7. Let Ministry Be Larger Than Your Plans

- Do not define ministry only by a pulpit, title, building, Sunday schedule, audience, or preferred method.
- Ministry may occur in public worship, a poor home, a hospital room, at a kitchen table, or in one conversation after everyone else has gone.
- Do not become so devoted to your preferred form of ministry that you miss the ministry placed before you.
- **Scripture:** Acts 5:42; 20:20; 2 Timothy 4:5.

8. Trust the Gospel to Save

- Programs organize, music moves, personality attracts, friendship encourages, and education improves—but the gospel saves.
- It can save the degenerate, the unlikely, the respectable, and the apparently well-ordered person who does not recognize his need.
- Never substitute life improvement for salvation. Preach that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.
- **Scripture:** Romans 1:16; 1 Timothy 1:15-16; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 15:3-4.

A Final Word

- Your hardships are not unique.
- Keep yourself in proper perspective.
- Remain a lifelong learner.
- Count blessings, not statistics.
- Be yourself.
- Keep different kinds of people in your life.
- Let ministry be larger than your plans.
- Trust the gospel to save.

Enjoy the ministry God gives you. Love His people, preach the Word, remain humble, and trust the gospel.