

# Rev. Ron Pearce



“The Ministry  
that Deacons Need”

**Rev. Ron Pearce** has pastored the Church of the Covenant OPC in Hackettstown, NJ for over 40 years. He and his wife, Linda, had been helping with the church since the fall of 1980. The Lord prospered the work, and in 1981 the congregation called him to help establish Church of the Covenant. He was ordained by the Presbytery of New Jersey on November 6, 1981, and he retired as pastor emeritus, April 17, 2022. He continues to serve the church and presbytery in his retirement.

Ron graduated from Westminster Seminary, Philadelphia in 1980 with the Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degrees. Ron and Linda have three children, two daughters-in-law and seven grandchildren, all nearby, so they enjoy being a part of their lives.

The Good Samaritan; the Rest of the Story  
Luke 10:38–42

- I. Christ Is Not Contrasting What Is Sinful to What Is Holy
  - A. Martha Was a Believer with Mary and Lazarus Jn. 11:25
  
  - B. Martha Was Attending to Legitimate Needs
    - 1. Legitimate Needs. Bible Doesn't Teach Dualism
  
    - 2. Legitimate Service. It Was Good for Martha to Provide for the Group to Eat
  
    - 3. Legitimate Time. It Was a Great Illustration of the Good Samaritan Lk. 10:36–37
  
- II. Christ Is Contrasting What Is Good to What Is Best
  - A. Mary Had the Right Priority
  
  - B. Martha Received the Rebuke— Why?
    - 1. For Her Attitude to Mary
  
    - 2. For Her Unbalanced Priority 10:40
      - a. Point is not for Martha to stop serving and listen to Jesus
  
      - b. Point is not that Martha was doing too much
  
      - c. Point is that Martha was being called to do her service with the same *love* for Christ as Mary had. Martha, keep focused, *why* are you doing all this service and hospitality?
  
- III. Christ Is Challenging Us to What Is Necessary
  - A. Caution: We Can Get Overwhelmed at All the Needs
  
  - B. Caution: We Can Get Distracted by Pressing Needs
  
  - C. Caution: We Can Forget *Why* We Are Working to Meet Needs

***One thing is necessary, and it is finally not a THING at all, it is a PERSON, the Lord Jesus himself.***

Stated in the positive: personal relationship to Christ and love for Christ must be the reason and focus for all work and ministry.

Stated in the negative: legitimate demands of service, ministry and needs are not the priority unless done for Christ and out of love for him.

*“O God, make me more earnest for Thy glory; and may I act more from real love and gratitude to my redeeming Lord.”*  
—William Wilberforce