

THE CHURCH SERVING TOGETHER AS A TEAM

The Church as a Community of Believers #5

1 Peter 4:10 – *“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”* (New Living)

Philippians 2:2 – *“Make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose.”* (New Living)

THREE CONCEPTS IN WORKING TOGETHER....

1. NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANS ARE A FAMILY

1 Corinthians 3:9a – *“We work together as partners who belong to God.”* (New Living)

2. NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANS NEED EACH OTHER TO BE COMPLETE

Romans 12:5 – *“Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of Christ’s body. But as a chopped-off finger or a cut-off toe we wouldn’t amount to much, would we?”* (Message)

3. NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANS ACCOMPLISH MORE TOGETHER THAN INDIVIDUALLY

Ecclesiastes 4:9 – *“Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively.”* (Good News)

1 Corinthians 3:8 – *“The one who plants and the one who waters work as a team with the same purpose. Yet they will be rewarded individually, according to their own hard work.”* (New Living)

TEAM-BUILDING CONCEPTS:

1. EFFECTIVE CHURCH SERVICE REQUIRES A TEAM

Both Jesus and Paul traveled with a team. When Paul was put on a boat as a prisoner of the Roman Empire, his fellow Christian Aristarchus traveled with him (Acts 27:2).

Acts 20:4 – *“Several men were traveling with him [Paul]. They were Sopater of Berea...Aristarchus and Secundus...Gaius...Timothy...Tychicus*

and Trophimus..." (New Living)

When the church in Jerusalem was persecuted and scattered, believers traveled and ministered as a team (Acts 11:19-21).

Key element of an effective team is *shared responsibility*. Our Port City team needs people with certain qualities.

- [1] We need people who are consistent and dependable
- [2] We need people who are willing to develop friendships

Proverbs 17:17 – *"Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble."* (Message)

- [3] we need people willing to give their time.

2. EFFECTIVE CHURCH SERVICE REQUIRES HARMONY AND SYMPATHY

1 Peter 3:8a – *"Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic..."* (NIV)

Two ways to build sympathy into a church ministry team , small group, physical family:

- [1] Slow down and be aware.
- [2] Show emotions.

Romans 12:15 – *"Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."* (New American Standard)

3. EFFECTIVE CHURCH SERVICE REQUIRES ACCOMMODATION FOR DIFFERENCES OF OPINION

2 Timothy 2:22b – *"Be faithful, loving, and easy to get along with. Worship with people whose hearts are pure."* (Contemporary English Version)

How do we accommodate?

- [1] Be helpful

Romans 15:2 – *"Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, 'How can I help?'"* (Message)

- [2] Be open to other people's ideas.

Proverbs 18:15 – *“The intelligent man is always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them.”* (Living)

[3] Be accepting of believers’ different gifts

Romans 12:6a – *“God in his kindness gave each of us different gifts.”* (God’s Word Translation)

[4] Make allowances for each other’s faults.

Ephesians 4:2b – *“Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.”* (Living)

4. EFFECTIVE CHURCH SERVICE REQUIRES A MISSION

Philippians 2:2b – *“Be of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.”* (New American Standard)

Our one purpose or mission is called the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:18-20 – [18] *“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”* (NIV)

Three responsibilities:

[1] Make disciples.

[2] Mark disciples.

[3] Mature disciples.

Galatians 2:14a – *“But when I saw that they were not maintaining a steady, straight course according to the Message, I spoke up to Peter in front of them all...”* (Message)

Philippians 1:27b – *“You are standing side by side with one strong purpose--to tell the Good News.”* (Living)

What God had to say about the power of a team (we know it as the Tower of Babel):

Genesis 11:6 – “The Lord said, ‘If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.’” (NIV)