

Church is Teamwork

by Pastor Marvin R. Barham

Ephesians 4:15-16 *15But **speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.***

There is no church without teamwork. In **Ephesians 4:15-16** the apostle Paul is expressing to the church of Ephesus their great potential for being a thriving, increasing, productive and loving church. However, the church will miss its moment of growth if they fail to work together and each recognize that each joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, that which growth of the whole body. Paul points out that each member must do the thing for which they are best equipped and make sure that those joints (fellowship connections) continue to work properly.¹

Paul also points out several key principles that develop a pattern for the church team to look like.

1. First, the team, joints, or fellowship connections must learn to continually **communicate** the truth (Jesus, the Word of God) in love. This means their motivation, attitudes, and speech all must operate out of the spirit of selfless love of Jesus Christ.
2. Second, each joint of the team must be **maturing in Christ** in all areas of their lives. Notice Paul uses the strong words “grow up”. This would offend most Christians thus illustrating Paul’s point. However, Paul is adamant that each member of the Body of Christ must grow in submission to the authority of Christ or the Word of Truth. This is where much of the church faces a hurdle. Not all joints want to respond favorably to Godly counsel and reproof. It is much easier to be offended and go somewhere you can blend in and not have someone actually in your business.
3. Third, Paul points out that each joint must be **giving something back**. Not just taking, but supplying something productive and healthy to the increase of the Body of Christ. Many want to come to a church corporation where they are simply the customer or consumer. “Don’t ask me to watch the nursery. I don’t even have children or like them.” You have a consumer mentality not a Kingdom Builder Team mentality. I have seen so many churches with great potential fail because the leadership and congregation never caught hold of the teamwork approach to Kingdom Building. There can be no church without teamwork. If the people do not get it then the upper leadership tries to do it all and burns out. The people then get discontented, ministries begin to dwindle and finally no one is left and the doors close. Each jointed member must give of not just their money but their time and energy. I have seen some churches try to take the money and hire help. This doesn’t work either. Throwing money at a church where the people have no passion for the purpose is fruitless.
4. This brings me to Paul’s next principle. Increase comes to the whole body according to **each member’s measure effectual work**. Christ does not just command us to give of ourselves to His church but He asks for what work you give to be effective or producing a desired results. What is the King’s desired result in the Kingdom? That it bear increase of righteous fruit, of which it multiplies, or grows. He points out that the increase is relative to the measure of which you and I put into it. We put little effort and passion into it then it produces little result.

The church will increase in every generation if we the church practice these principles and teach them to our children. We must understand that in the Kingdom of God when the church grows and wins, you grow and win. When the church is healthy it means your families are healthier. The church team is only as healthy as the Home Team. We teach our children that church is not really a priority in life if we say, "We just go there on Sunday, given there is not something more important that comes up." We are thus teaching them that the Word of God is not really a priority, we do not really need each other, that fellowship with likeminded, Biblical thinking, righteous living, God pleasing people is not a priority.

Why is the church not relevant to the culture today? Because it is no longer relevant to God's people. What will it take for the people of God to view the church as important to them and their families again? It will probably take the same thing that it took in Paul's day – much persecution by the culture of which the people were so engulfed. I believe that when God's people take hold of a Kingdom perspective of the Body of Christ, as Paul has clearly stated in Ephesians, then she will see the fulfillment of Ephesians 3:20-21.

Ephesians 3:20-21 *20* Now unto him that is able to do **exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21** Unto **him be glory in the church** by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Paul illustrates for us here that when the church works together, each member doing effectually whatever called to do for the good of the church, then Christ is able to do things greater than we could even imagine, we will see the power of God like never before, and the glory of God will be seen in all the world.

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Victory Christian Fellowship International

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1. The team, joints, fellowship connections must learn to continually _____ the truth (Jesus, the Word of God) in _____.
2. Each joint of the team must be _____ in _____ in all areas of their lives.
 - a. The apostle Paul uses the strong words “_____.”
 - b. Each member of the Body of Christ must _____ in _____ to the authority of Christ or the Word of _____.
 - c. Not all joints want to respond _____ to Godly counsel and _____.
3. Each joint must be _____.
 - a. Not just _____, but supplying something _____ and _____ to the increase of the Body of Christ.
 - b. Each must have a Kingdom Team Builder mentality instead of a _____ mentality.
 - c. There can be no _____ without _____.
 - d. Each jointed member must give of not just their _____ but also of their _____ and _____.
4. Increase comes to the whole body according to each member’s _____ of _____.
 - a. What is the King’s desired result in the Kingdom ?

 - b. Kingdom increase is relative to the measure of which _____ and _____ put into it.
 - c. If we put little _____ and _____ into it then it produces _____ result.
 - d. The church will increase in every _____ if we the church _____ these principles and _____ them to our _____.
 - e. In the Kingdom of God when the _____ grows and wins _____ grow and win.
 - f. The church team is only as healthy as the _____ team.
 - g. Why is the church not relevant to the culture today? Because it is no longer _____ to _____ people.

Ephesians 3:20-21 *20Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly _____ all that we ask or _____, according to the _____ that worketh in _____, 21Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, _____ without end. Amen.*

When the church _____ together, each member doing effectually _____ called to do for the good of the _____, then Christ is able to do things greater than we could even _____,

we will see the _____ of God like never before, and the glory of God will be seen in all the _____.