

June 7, 2020

Pastor Steve Hardy

“Serving Together, in the Name of Jesus”

Colossians 4:7-17

Series: Colossians

Paul closes his letter to the Colossian believers with reference to 10 individuals, not counting Timothy the co-author of the letter. It is inaccurate to think about “Paul’s ministry” without recognizing that he nearly always worked with a team of co-laborers in the mission of Christ. It is helpful to see how they were alike, and how they were different, and how they valued one another!

I. Believers serve together sharing common LIFE.

- A. Common life is the reality of being “IN CHRIST,” Col 1:2; 4:7,9,15 (1 John 1:1-4).
- B. Common life is evident in MUTUAL CONCERN, Col 1:3-14; 4:8-9.
- C. Common life involves us in common WORK, Col 4:10-17.

II. Believers serve together engaging in different ROLES.

- A. This illustrates the discipleship concept of DESTINY.
- B. Service for Christ takes many FORMS.

III. Believers serve together with mutual APPRECIATION.

- A. We recognize the value of every BODY PART, 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.
- B. Appreciation is evident in our ATTITUDES and WORDS.

Those who have been born from above to new life in Christ share that life with “fellow servants”, brothers and sisters who serve together in the name of Jesus. In the same family, on the same mission, but different according to God’s design and for the fulfillment of his purposes. Are you in the family? Are you on mission? Are you actively appreciating your fellow workers?

**Family Time:**

Discuss what it means to be “family”, related to one another in common life. What creates those relationships (being born into, a marriage covenant, adoption,...)? What does that mean for you as family (for instance, what things or purposes do you share? How do you work together? What are your different roles?) How do value and express appreciation for one another?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. As Americans we are known for our independent spirit (how was our country birthed, after all?)

--As you think about the concept of common life, how does an independent spirit hinder our ability to function well as a community or nation?

--What recent examples have you noted that demonstrate this dysfunction?

--What should those who recognize the design of God for communities (families, cities and towns, states and nations, various kinds of work groups, etc.) do to help others see the importance of working as a team?

2. Both the realities of life we observe and the testimony of the Word of God would teach us that we are designed for different roles.

--Thinking of 1 Corinthians 12:21-25, how does God view these differences?

--Do people see the differences in roles the way God does? If not, why? What gets in the way or clouds our vision/understanding?

--Identify the role you have on teams you are a part of. How has God designed you and equipped you for that role?

--As Paul served in his role for Christ he experienced a variety of circumstances. How did he handle them (see Philippians 4:10-13)? What does being content have to do with our role, or in terms of our discipleship model, our destiny?

3. In contrast to our independent spirits, we probably all could and/or should value others and express it more.

--Review Paul's closing words to the church at Colossae again (Col 4:7-18). What are the ways he expresses his value and appreciation of others?

--How is appreciation evident in attitudes?

--What are some steps you will take to better demonstrate in attitude, action and word your value and appreciation toward other members of "teams" you are part of?

**NEXT WEEK:** Fulfill Your Ministry, Colossians 4:17-18

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