



KING FOREVER

Week 8 | Ministry is a Team Sport

| KEY THOUGHTS

- The scriptures show that biblical **ministry is a team sport**.
- **A common assumption is that ministry is for other people, not for me.**
- God uses all kinds of people in spreading the gospel and making disciples; **there is no one kind of person that God will use.**
- **God uses us in many different ways.**
- God designed the church as many members, but **one body, with one Spirit, one Lord, one God, all on one mission:** telling others about God's rescue of the lost through Jesus Christ.
- We don't do good things and tell others about Jesus *in order to be saved*; **we do it because we have been saved!**
- We serve and lead as a team; **that's the default position of ministry in the Bible.**
- Nevertheless, **we tend to exclude ourselves**, saying...
 - I'm too busy
 - I'm not needed
 - I'm too young (or too old)
 - I don't know my gifts
 - I'm too new to the faith
 - I'm too unreliable
 - my background disqualifies me.
- **Every single born-again believer has a place to serve and is given the spiritual gifts needed to serve.**
- This pushes back against the cultural elevation of solo superhero; **the Bible resists the idea of "me" in ministry and speaks of "we" in Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

| SCRIPTURE

⁷ Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸ I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, ⁹ and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. ¹⁶ And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. ¹⁷ And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.” ¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Colossians 4:7-18 (ESV)

⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...

Romans 12:4-6a (ESV)

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (ESV)

| PRACTICAL

- The best way to discover what my spiritual gifts are is to jump in and learn where I'm best gifted to serve.
- God doesn't invite me to serve because of who I am or was in the past, but because of who Christ is and who I am in Him!
- If I'm not already serving on a team, my next step is to join one by indicating my desire on the connection card.
- If I'm already serving, my next step might be to invite a friend to serve with me.

| REFLECT

- Whenever I start to think about discovering and using my spiritual gifts, a great spiritual battle begins, because Satan wants to keep us...
 - isolated and ineffective;
 - ignorant of who I am in Christ;
 - ignorant of how God can use me;
 - the Church from operating at full capacity.
- When I serve in ministry in any way, no matter how insignificant it may seem, God is using me to accomplish His mission.
- When I serve in ministry, every time I see others...
 - Come to Christ in faith;
 - Follow Christ in baptism;
 - Take steps of spiritual growth;
 - Experience the kind of life transformation only God can accomplish; or
 - Launch a new church,...I'll know I have been a part of that!

MYLIGHTHOUSECOMMUNITY.COM