

# SERMON NOTES

## **A-PART 4: A-PART OF A TEAM**

I am made to be A PART of something bigger, but Satan wants us to be APART from each other.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

#### **1. God wants us in teams / Yoked & non believers & Benefits**

The term in the New Testament is "Fellow Workers" (Greek "Synergos"). Notice the teams, the affection, and the "FELLOW WORKERS" mentioned here:

#### **Romans 16:1-15 (NKJV)**

- 1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea,
- 2 That you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.
- 3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,
- 4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.
- 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.
- 6 Greet Mary, who labored much for us.
- 7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.
- 8 Greet Amplias, my beloved in the Lord.
- 9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.
- 10 Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus.
- 11 Greet Herodion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.
- 12 Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the Lord.
- 13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.
- 14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren who are with them.
- 15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.

#### ○ **YOKED**

#### **Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV)**

- 28 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
- 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
- 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

#### **2 Corinthians 6:11-18 (NKJV)**

- 11 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open.
- 12 You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections.

13 Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

#### ○ **BENEFITS / SYNERGY**

##### **Matthew 10:40-42 (NKJV)**

40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

41 "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

42 "And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

##### **Philippians 1:3-7 (NKJV)**

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

4 Always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

6 Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

7 Just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of **(my) grace**.

##### **Philippians 1:5 (NLT)**

5 For you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.

##### **Philippians 4:14-19 (NKJV)**

14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.

15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

## **2. How do teams work? - leaders, helpers etc**

Paul lists 5 of his Fellow workers by name, and notes that they are the only ones. It was an important distinction:

### **Colossians 4:7-11 (NKJV)**

7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.

8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts,

9 With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him),

11 And Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

### **Paul and apollo**

#### **1 Corinthians 3:3-10 (NKJV)**

3 for you are still carnal. For where [there are] envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like [mere] men?

4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I [am] of Apollos," are you not carnal?

5 Who then is Paul, and who [is] Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, [you are] God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

#### **1 Corinthians 4:6 (NKJV)**

Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

#### **1 Corinthians 4:9 (NKJV)**

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

#### **1 Corinthians 16:10 (NKJV)**

And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do. HE SERVES AND REPRESENTS PAUL

11 Therefore let no one despise him. But send him on his journey in peace, that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren. *SUPPORT AND SUBMIT TO HIM*

12 Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite unwilling to come at this time; however, he will come when he has a convenient time. *APOLLOS DOES NOT REPRESENT OR OBEY PAUL AT ALL. PAUL MAKES THIS CLEAR*

15 I urge you, brethren—you know the household of **Stephanas**, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—

16 That you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. *SUBMIT TO MY “FELLOW WORKERS”*

### **Timothy**

#### **Philippians 2:19 (NKJV)**

19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.

20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.

21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

22 But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.

*PROVEN CHARACTER* - Paul could trust him because of a track record - a time of faithful service in many tests and trials. A servant. Paul had confidence in him.

### **BOSS BUT IT’S NOT A DOMINEERING ROLE**

#### **1 Corinthians 3:9 (NKJV)**

For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.

#### **2 Corinthians 1:24 (NKJV)**

Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.

### **3. Teams can be messy**

#### **MARK**

#### **Acts 15:36-40 (NKJV)**

36 Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing."

37 Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called **Mark**.

38 But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.

39 Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus;

40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.

#### **Colossians 4:10 (NKJV)**

**Aristarchus** my fellow prisoner greets you, with **Mark** the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him)

#### **DEMAS**

#### **Philemon 1:23-24 (NKJV)**

**Epaphras**, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do **Mark, Aristarchus, Demas**, Luke, my fellow laborers.

## **2 Timothy 4:10 (NKJV)**

For **Demas** has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

## **ONESIMUS**

### **Colossians 4:9 (NKJV)**

With **Onesimus**, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you.

### **Philemon 1:1 (NKJV)**

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved friend and **fellow laborer**,

### **Philemon 1:8-11 (NKJV)**

8 Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting,

9 Yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you--being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ-

10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains,

11 Who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me.

## **EUODIA SYNTYCHE**

### **Philippians 4:2-3 (NKJV)**

2 I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

## **4. Conclusions**

Paul's lists - be yoked for a purpose in a team and play your part and in church life how it works

1. Paul made clear who his fellow workers (team) were by name.
2. He said they represent him, minister like him and for him, and are trustworthy. He had good relationships with them. He praised them.
3. He said that people should follow and submit to them as if they were submitting to Paul.
4. He made clear that other teams existed, but also rebuked division and partisanship.
5. The teams had some internal struggles and human issues. Mark, Demas, Euodia Syntyche.
6. He encouraged unity, love, respect and working together.

*FELLOW WORKERS AND TEAMS* lists of people :

- Romans 16:3 - **Priscilla** and **Aquila**
- Romans 16:9 - **Urbanus**
- Romans 16:21 - **Timothy**
- 2 Corinthians 8:23 - **Titus**
- Philemon 2:25 - **Epaphroditus** and there are others mentioned in Phil 4:3, Col 4:11, Phm 1:1, Phm 1:24, 1 Cor 16:16.
- Philemon 1:24 - **Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.**

*DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN FELLOW WORKERS AND OTHERS:*

- Romans 16:3 - Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,
- Romans 16:9 - Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.
- Romans 16:21 - Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you.

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.