

Team Servitude

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Eph 4:11-16

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From 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. Church is the body of Christ. As the operation of the body, the church holy work also needs to employ all parts as a team in servitude, so that we will be able to accomplish the divine work entrusted by the Lord. (Eph 1:23-24)

□. The benefit of team servitude (Eph 4:11-16)

1. Complete Servitude (11)

The church council members today carry on works entrusted by the Lord according to their various gifts to be in charge of church administration, planning, promotion, and executing the holy work to lead members to serve the Lord in one accord. (Acts 20:28, 1Cor 3:3-6)

2. Multi-Dimensional Servitude (12)

To help the believers in pursuit of holiness and have them fully utilize the function as members of the body; by cohering the power, so the church may be established. (Jn 21:15-23, 1Pe 4:10-11)

3. Passing on the Experience (13-16)

In the entire process of servitude, we need to imitate how Lord Jesus taught the disciples and led them to serve in one accord. As from servitude the disciples learned and accumulated their experiences, having been able to unify in truth, cultivate in spirituality, mature in understanding and grow in their servitude; thus enabling them to take on future work. (Mk 1:14-15, 3:13-15)

* Paul (1Tim 1:2, 4:12-16, 2Tim 2:1-2), Joshua (Jos 1:1-2), Elijah (2Ki 2:1-14)

□. **Establishing Team Servitude (Eph 4:11-12)**

1. Have a clear objective – to build up the body of Christ. Liken to the new bride of Christ, adorned and ready to receive Christ. (Col 1:24-29)
2. Have a sound organization – As the body is consisted of numerous cells, 4 limbs, 5 senses, and 11 internal organs. Christ is the head of the church, and then church council, holy work team coordinators, team members, and the whole congregation. (1Cor 12:12-31)

To fulfill each one's duties – To form rules and regulations, to clearly define work duties and Handbook.

As building the ark (Gen 6:13-22, tabernacle (Ex 25-40: 2, 16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32), and the holy temple (1Ki 6:37-38)

□. **The Operation of Team Servitude (Eph 4:12-16)**

1. Set a goal (13) – Set goals according to the objective (Long-term, mid-term, short-term annual goal) (1Cor 9:26)

Pastoral work is to proclaim God's gospel and to completely draw men before God's presence. (Mk 1:29-39, Col 1:24-29) to build up the church (Acts 9:31).

2. Cultivation of Workers (12-14) – In order to lead the members in fulfilling their duties, we need to seek the talent of each member and cultivate them. So that the members may understand what gifts they have and serve the Lord by the gifts. (Isa 6:8, Mk 1:16-20, 2 Tim 2:1-2)
 - a. Edification of the Truth – The church of God is built upon the pillar and foundation of the truth (1Tim 3:15). Holy workers must be steadfast on the truth taught, in order to exhort people and defeat the debaters through pure teaching. (Tit 1:9, Ro 10:2)
 - b. The Compelling of God's Love – This is the spirit and prop of our servitude. As the serving journey of Paul, the more frustration he encountered the more courage he had; he was willingly sacrifice for the Lord (Ro 8:31-39, 14:7-8) and took upon serving Lord with thanksgiving as granted. (Ro 12:1)
 - c. Ability of Servitude – Before Lord Jesus sent the disciples out to work, they required pre-service training and the granting of authority and power. (Mk 3:13-15, Lk 9:1-6) It is needed to let them know what to do, how to do, and certainly have an evaluation afterward to keep improving in

servitude. (Lk 10:1-20)

3. Bodily Communication (15)

a. Speaking the Truth in Love – To communicate in honesty and sincerity is of upmost value.

However to speak the truth not only in love, but also be able to let the opposite party feel that what you say is out of love. (Pro 27:5-6); otherwise may turn into mutual harm.

Communication's value lies in the mutual understanding and trust, so that co-workers may not attack each other instead. If we all spoke the same language there'd be nothing impossible to accomplish. (Gen 11:6)

b. Grow up in All Things – During the process of communication and molding, if everyone can understand each other and accept one another, they will be mutually edified and grow in all things. (Phil 2:1-4, Pro 27:17, 15:22)

c. Join to the Head, Christ - Let this mind be in everyone, which was also in Christ Jesus (Phil 2:5), to know God's will and be able to judge right from wrong (Ro 2:18). When everyone is nourished by God's love, there will be no obstacle between one another, and the church can be filled with vigor.

Christ is the head of church. Every part of the body relies on Him through mutual cooperation and unity of every joint and vein. By doing so, when the parts fully utilize their functions, the body will grow in servitude and establish oneself in love (16)