

Building a Healthy Church Planting Team

God works as a fellowship, and His work displays His nature. Jesus trained His disciples to work together to see His mission go forth. His disciples today need the same training and experience. The vision of church planting that displays Christ in Europe requires people that work together in healthy teams. Healthy teamwork provides sustainability, diversity, and unity. When we work together in teams, church planting is not reserved to a few “super disciples”, but is for all followers of Christ. Then we can mobilize more people into the harvest in Europe.

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I. Why work in teams?

A. The nature of God

1. God is fellowship
2. Let us create. (Gen. 1:26)
3. God is creative
4. Psalm 133 creativity – joy – dynamic

B. The leaders in the Bible worked together

1. Elders are about plurality
2. Peter stood forth among the eleven (Acts 2:14)
3. Baptized in one Spirit to be one body (1 Cor. 12:13)
4. Jesus sent his disciples out two and two
5. The vision is too great that we can do it alone

II. How to be a fruitful team member

A. Security in Christ

1. Live in grace
2. Not occupied by our self

B. Identity in Christ

1. Mutual and equal relationship
2. Position and titles are not decisive

C. Revelation of the body of Christ

1. Have a holistic approach to the church
2. No superiority or inferiority (1 Cor.12)
3. Each part has the same care for one another (1 Cor.12:25)

D. Experience the cross

1. Matt.16:24-26
2. For example, Peter (John 13:36-37, 18:25-27, 21:15-19)
3. Be a servant (Matt.20:20-28, John 13:1-17)

III. Common conditions to succeed in teamwork

A. Common values (1 John 4:17)

1. Our values are what is precious to us
2. Have its source in God – who God is
3. Values gives directions when we face challenges and they give direction how to work

B. Common vision (Heb. 3:1)

1. See the same picture
2. Have the same heavenly vision that we obey (Acts 26:19)
3. Purpose driven company of people that can work through obstacles

C. Common commission

1. We are all a part of the Great Commission in Matt. 28:18-20
2. We need to be a part of a common commission in the Great Commission
3. Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25-13:1-2)

IV. How to succeed in a team

A. The team depends on each member

1. We are as strong as we are together
2. Common experience when everybody has
 - i. Character
 - ii. Gifts in operation
 - iii. Commitment - obligation
 - iv. Solidarity

B. Communication

1. Have a culture of learning and honouring

2. Openness and vulnerability
3. Starts with the leader of the team
4. Signs of good communication
 - i. Mutual commitment
 - ii. Trust – no fear
 - iii. No surprises between us
 - iv. Honesty
 - v. Speak “I” message – faith with responsibility

C. Willingness to change (Luke 14:26-27)

1. We submit our position to the function and mission
2. Adjust and embrace change (Acts 13:1)
3. Disciples learn through life without retirement

D. Willingness to learn

1. Eagerness and hunger all phases of life
2. Look back to learn from history – look forward to grasp the future

V. Fruit of a healthy team

- A. The kingdom of God comes (Matt. 6:10)
- B. Releasing people into the harvest who fulfil a common purpose
- C. Avoid burnout
- D. Joy