



Paul reached the world through a **team** of believers committed to ministry.

Every instruction about doctrine, every warning about heresy, every encouragement to holiness and good works is effective only as it is **realized** in the lives of **people**.

Titus, Artemas, Tychicus, Zenas, Apollos...

There is value in everyone getting along and literally liking each other, but what holds us together, the **unity** of the church, is around the **truths** of the faith; everything else is peripheral.

If you know Christ as Lord, the Holy Spirit has gifted you so **you** can serve Him in the mission. You need to see yourself as a vital **member** of the team – committed to ministry.

Ministry just means **service** and every Christian is saved to serve Jesus Christ. Ministry should be the **overflow** of your walk with Him.

There should be no such thing as a **benchwarmer** Christian.

V14...to meet **pressing** needs, that they may not be **unfruitful**.

The issue here is meeting pressing needs, mainly of others, as the **fruit** of our relationship with Jesus. But the focus on **good deeds** as a summary of the Christian life is all through the letter: 1:16; 2:7; 2:14; 3:1; 3:5; 3:8; 3:14

## Principles of Teamwork in the Church

- We are each responsible to engage in **good deeds**.
- We are all **interdependent** as the body of Christ. We must involve **others** in the ministry and trust them to do it.
- Our **success** is not in proportion to numbers, but to faith and obedience.
- We can't be afraid to enlist **competent** people on our team.
- We've got to be able to **promote** others' ministry.

Verse 14 includes **you!** An **unfruitful** life is not a good testimony to the saving power of God.

Matthew 5:16

The best way for us as Christians to live a **fruitful** life – to do good in the name of Jesus – is simply to seize the opportunity **right in front** of us. And then seize the next one...until we find our lives mattering to others and the ministry of God's Kingdom in ways we could scarcely have imagined before.

Are you on the **team**?

Are you a benchwarmer or **committed** to ministry?

What is right in front of **you**?

Truth is only effective when it affects **you** enough to affect **others** through you.

Devote yourself to being fruitful for the glory of God...

by doing what is **good** –

by working **with** other Christians –

by taking whatever **opportunity** is right in front of you.