

Sermon Title: The Blessing Of Having A Like-Minded Co-Laborer In Ministry

Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 1:1-16

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a courageous and steadfast mindset of appreciation.

Sermon Proposition: There are 9 qualities of a like-minded co-laborer to be appreciated and duplicated.

I. The 1st motivation of genuine faithfulness is respect for delegated authority. V.1-2

A. The call of Paul. V.1a (**Acts 22; 26**)

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

B. The cause of Paul. V.1b

C. The communication of Paul. V.1c

D. The council of Paul. V.2

There is a cardinal rule often neglected in some areas of Christianity today. ***"Intimacy never precludes authority."*** Intimacy, friendship, fellowship, love bonds, all that does not preclude authority.

There should be intimacy, there's love, there's bonding together, but these never preclude the divine hierarchy of delegated authority. There can be a deep spiritual bond, a love from man to man like a father to a son, but Paul is still the one who speaks the Word of God.

The key to any discipling relationship, is when you speak the Word of God, you go into a command mode, that's just part of it. This letter is packed with commands. The following are examples, of commands from Paul to Timothy: "Kindle afresh the gift of God . . . do not be ashamed of the Lord, retain the standard . . . guard the treasure . . . be strong . . . entrust to faithful men . . . suffer hardship etc. These and the other exhortations are all commands and presuppose authority. Paul never compromises.

This applies in the discipling process in the home, church, or whatever area of discipling you're involved in. We can become friends, we can share fellowship, we can enjoy love, but we can never allow intimacy to supercede authority, and our authority is based on our calling, our cause, and our message we sent to communicate.

II. The 2nd motivation for genuine faithfulness is respect for delegated altruism. V.2b

This is simply the picture of unselfish concern for and devotion to the welfare of others. The idea communicates, demonstrates, and participates in being concerned for the good of others.

A. Grace refers to God's underserved favor, undeserved love, undeserved forgiveness given to sinners to free them from sin and enable them to live and serve God.

B. Mercy refers to God's undeserved compassion in freeing sinners from the misery that their sin creates.

C. Peace refers to the heart tranquility and settled relationship that results from grace and peace, grace and mercy.

There is grace to cover our sins. Mercy to overcome our misery, and peace to dominate your life.

D. Source refers to the equal deity of God the Father, and Christ Jesus our Lord.

What do you wish for the Timothy's in your life? If you want to motivate a disciple, prove to them that the most important thing to you is their spiritual welfare and growth.

III. The 3rd motivation for genuine faithfulness is respect for delegated appreciation. V.3

A. Appreciation is demonstrated by a thankful heart. V.3a

B. Appreciation is demonstrated by following the example of the Godly. V.3b

Paul is incarcerated in a dark filthy stinking dungeon, crowded with criminals, facing an unjust execution, and yet he's thinking about his beloved son in the faith.

Paul thanks God who he is continually serving, lit. (latreuo), is translated worship, it has to do with temple service, is done with a clear conscience. His conscience is not accusing him. It's not pointing out some sin of which he is guilty and for which he should die or be imprisoned in chains.

Paul's reference to his self-judging conscience being clear, probably is there to remind Timothy and everyone else who might say, "Well, he's probably in prison because God is disciplining him for some sin. Paul states, there was nothing in his heart accusing, nothing in his heart throwing guilt in his face. Paul is saying I'm in prison waiting to die, my conscience is clear, all the accounts are right with God and I have faithfully carried out my assignment.

IV. The 4th motivation of genuine faithfulness is respect for delegated appeals. V.3b

Paul constantly prayed for Timothy, without interruptions, without ceasing. The phrase is used in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (*1 Thessalonians 5:17* pray without ceasing,) pray without ceasing. Paul is constantly reminding God of Timothy's needs, Paul pleads for Timothy.

The word prayer here is (deesis), petition, pleading to God on Timothy's behalf. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

V. The 5th motivation of genuine faithfulness is respect for delegated affection. V.4

The word "longing" or "desiring" is an intense word, (epipotheo), it means to have a strong desire for, to yearn for, it's a compound word, intense in its meaning. He hurts because he wants so much to fellowship and see Timothy. (*1 Timothy 4:9-13, 21*)

Paul recalls their last meeting, a time of weeping.

The bond the early Christians had, was because they gave their lives away to each other, not protected their lives from each other.

If you want to influence someone, let them know how deeply you love them. That will motivate them if they are a true son, a disciple, a Christian. For who can resist the compulsion of a strong affection? Who can resist the love of God?

VI. The 6th motivation of genuine faithfulness is respect for delegated affirmation. V.5

This is the 3rd time in this section of scripture, where Paul remembers something about Timothy, once in verse 3, once in verse 4, and again in verse 5. Paul is reminded of the evidence of Timothy's demonstrated true faith, real saving faith, his genuine faith. It is as if Paul is saying you can do this Timothy, I affirm your great potential, I know your character, I know your true faith. The phrase "I am mindful" is a passive action. The word "genuine," (anupokritos), means unhypocritical, no hypocrisy, no phonies, genuine.

Anyone in a leadership position, anyone disciplining another person spiritually ought to know these six attributes, because they have been done with him or her, they can now duplicate the process with someone else.

- If you want to motivate people to respond to spiritual truth and to grow up into Christ likeness,
- 1) The 1st step is to establish a position of authority. They need to know they are bound to respond when you speak the Word of God.
 - 2) Secondly, you want to convey to them an attitude of concern or altruism, that is they must know you have their best interest in your heart.
 - 3) Thirdly, an attitude of appreciation. They need to know you thank God for them in your prayers.
 - 4) Fourthly, an attitude of appeal, which means you constantly pray for them.
 - 5) Fifthly, an attitude of affection, the affection says you care about them in a deep, loving relationship.
 - 6) Sixthly, an attitude of affirmation, you can do it.

VII. The ashamed need to be reminded of their call to serve. V.6-7

- A. Jesus Christ has provided the blaze of the Spirit. V.6
 1. The Christian is not ashamed because he is equipped to serve.
 2. The Christian is not ashamed because he is designed to serve.
 3. The Christian is not ashamed because he is empowered to serve.

- B. Jesus Christ has provided the benefits of the Spirit. V.7
 1. The Christian has dynamic courage and boldness. V.7a
Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
 2. The Christian has dynamic producing energy. V.7b (**Eph. 1:18-20; 3:20**)
Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.
 3. The Christian has a God given dynamic to produce results. V.7c
Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
 "There is no Christian (genuine) on the face of the earth walking around who doesn't have this power. You may not be experiencing it, because it comes to the one who is controlled by the Spirit of God, the one who has set sin aside and is consistently submitting to the leading of God's Holy Spirit, that how and where the power operates.
 The idea of a sound mind refers to a disciplined, self-controlled, and properly prioritized mind. This is the opposite of fear and cowardice, that causes disorder and confusion. Focusing on the sovereign nature and perfect purposes of our eternal God allows believers to control their lives with godly wisdom and confidence in life situations.

VIII. The ashamed need to be reminded of their call to suffer. V.8-12

- A. There is the call to God's purposes in suffering. V.8-10
 1. The Christian has to be programmed to expect suffering. V.8a
 2. The Christian has to be programmed to join in suffering. V.8b
 "The disciple must be willing to take their share of evil treatment along with others."
(1 Tim. 3:12)
Acts 5:41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

3. The Christian must be programmed to **gospel** suffering. V.8c
1 Peter 4:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. ¹⁷ For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?
Galatians 6:12 As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. . . . **14** But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. . . . **17** From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.
 4. The Christian must be programmed to **Christ like** suffering. V.8-10
Thought: "If God can save me, He can preserve me."
- B. There is the call to God's **positions** in suffering. V.11
 1. Appointed to be a preacher-one who is sent to proclaim or herald a message publicly (function). (**Eph. 4:11-16; Colossians 1:28-29**)
 2. Appointed to be an Apostle-genuine authority to fulfill a divine commission.
 3. Appointed to be a teacher-speaks of the content of his message.
 - C. There is the call to God's **plan** in suffering. V.12a
 - D. There is the call to God's **preservation** in suffering. V.12b

IX. The ashamed need to be reminded of their call to **sound** doctrine. V.13-18

- A. Remember the call to be **guided** by the Word of God taught. V.13
"Hold fast" or "retain" means to hold tightly or firmly, to grasp hold tightly to the standard, **hupotuposis**, it means the structure, the outline, the model, the pattern of sound words, healthy wholesome life-giving . . . true doctrine, truth. (**1 Tim. 6:20**) "The reason most people don't have the courage of their conviction, they don't have conviction."
- B. Remember the call to **guard** the truth of God's Word taught. V.14
Guard the sound wholesome life-giving words, be committed to biblical theological structure, the proper interpretation of Scripture, the proper outline of the truth that produces spiritual growth, and maturity.
- C. Remember the call to **guaranteed** rejection of God's Word taught. V.15
When you have the conviction of Scripture, when you decide not to have a doubting view of biblical truth, a dead view of truth, and a loveless insensitive view of biblical truth, then you won't risk being ashamed in the face of rejection.
- D. Remember the call to **granted** mercy for the Word of God taught and caught. V.16-18
 1. The no mercy granted group. V.15b
The pain of ministry is disloyal people, who when the going gets difficult, when discipline must be carried out, disappear quickly, or sow seeds of discord, they get critical and start picking at the faithful.
The people you have spent your life and time feeding and nurturing, that's the heartbreaker, and it was a heartbreaker for Paul. (**Galatians 4:19**)
 2. The all mercy granted group. V.16-18