

The Power of One

For the Church to make the impact God desires for us it will take everyone doing their part

- The Body of Christ is many members living as One

1 Corinthians 12:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.

- The way we as individuals live our lives affects the whole Body

1 Corinthians 12:21, 25 (NKJV)

²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

²⁵ This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.

- You are needed
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Ephesians 4:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

- There is only One Faith
- One God
- One Baptism into Christ
- One Church – The Body of Christ

The Body of Christ has One Purpose – The Gospel

Philippians 1:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel

- Is my life all about me or am I striving to be one, in spirit and mind with the Body of Christ?
- One person can affect the whole mission

John 17:21 (NKJV)

²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

- One with the Father and the Son
- One with one another
- Am I living for the cause of Christ?
- Do I know why I am here?

Colossians 3:1–3 (NKJV)

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- Our Real Life is found in living in Christ
- The life of one member of Christ affects the whole Body
- The outcome of the many is affected by the One
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John 18:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

- His cause was so vital He was willing to die for it

While it's good to have a vision and goals for our lives, fulfillment in life will not be realized until we know the cause for which we were created.

Before you were born the Father

- Knew you
- Destined you
- Purposed you

Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

Psalms 139:13 (NKJV)

¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

You were born for the cause of the King and the Kingdom

A defined vision gives us both a reason to run and something worth running after

Proverbs 29:18 (1901 ASV)

¹⁸Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint.

- Vision should flow out of revelation of the cause of Christ
- Direct your motivation, thinking, time, talent and relationships
- Everything you put your hand to becomes a catalyst for something bigger
- A vision is something you possess
- A cause is something that possess you

Matthew 26:42 (NKJV)

⁴² Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

- When you commit to the Father’s cause, you don’t have to make up a vision for your life
- It takes hold of you and begins to influence everything you do
- You begin to live in a way that honors the Father and His kingdom – 1st!

Purpose and vision are an endless flow

Philippians 3:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- Does the cause possess you or are you trying to stay motivated by a vision you possess?
- A vision can be personal
- A cause is bigger than any one person

You may have a vision statement with goals

- On year – Five year – Ten years
- Whom does it serve?
- There is no power if it's all about you
- The cause of Christ is greater than any...
- Individual – Ministry – Mission – Church

A vision can exist for you, but you exist for the cause

- The church doesn't exist for you and your vision
- You exist to fulfill the cause of Christ through the vision of the church

“Ask not what can my church do for me but rather what can I do for my church?”

Romans 12:4 (The Message)

In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around.

With a Vision You Have a Way Out, But the Cause Leaves You No Options

- You may have a fantastic vision for your life
- Are you willingly to surrender your life for it?
- Christians around the world each year die in the name of Jesus
- Are you willing to die for the cause of Christ?

Those who have a revelation of the King and the kingdom will lay down their lives for the sake of the cause of Christ

- Their finances
- Their energy
- Their personal vision
- Is your vision worth dying for?

Galatians 2:20 (The Message)

Christ's life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 Corinthians 5:14 (The Message)

Christ's love has moved me to such extremes. His love has the first and last word in everything we do.

When our vision is detached from the cause of Christ we can start to think the grass is greener somewhere else

- You start to think you have options
- If I become discouraged I can change direction
- You can choose to run with a vision or abandon it
- You hold vision in your hand
- Cause grips your heart
- You won't let go even in life's most discouraging moments

A vision can be ignored but the cause cannot be ignored

During Jesus' three years of ministry

- Crowds were excited everywhere He went
- "Could this be the Messiah?"
- "How can He perform such miracles?"
- Some thought He was the promised Savior
- Others came to join the spectacle
- When crunch time came many deserted Him and called for His crucifixion

The Apostles and early disciples understood The Cause

- They lived for The Cause and did great exploits
- Gave sight to the blind
- Healed the sick
- Overcame great persecution and challenges

When excitement or entertainment is the only thing keeping you there, the excitement could easily wane

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Romans 1:16 (NLT)

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.*

- Vision generates excitement and enthusiasm
- The cause of Christ generates power
- It will empower your relationships
- Your plans for the future
- Your connection to the world

“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.” – Helen Keller

In general, I agree with this statement but feel there is something worse than having no vision:

“Having a vision that is only self-focused and self-motivated”

- Vision on its own has limitations
- When linked with to the cause of Christ, it has supernatural power and purpose
- Is your vision a power generator?

When you surrender your vision and future into God’s hands and His will for your life the cause of Christ will take your personal passion and vision for your life to a whole new level

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United Around One Cause

Psalm 133 (NKJV)

¹ Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity! ² *It is* like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. ³ *It is* like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

- When there is unity around One Cause, God commands the blessing
- There is an anointing that makes things flow better
- Everyone doing their part helps the others grow
- When there is disunity the exact opposite happens

Ephesians 4:3 (NLT)

³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Matthew 12:25 (NLT)

²⁵ Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, “Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart.

- Jesus says, a kingdom, town or family
- It applies to our lives today
- Division will eventually destroy a church
- A divided house doesn’t only mean bickering and fighting
- It can mean we are heading in multiple directions
- If we’re heading in different directions, (*agendas*) we will not be as productive

A House Divided Has Divided Motives

Do I use my vision to help build the house of God or do I use the house of God to build my vision?

- Am I a resource to the Church
- Or am I just a consumer?
- When our motives are genuinely driven to serve the Lord's purposes, God will see that his house and your life flourish

When your house, family, marriage, friendships, business, and the church have a united vision and focus on a greater cause there is a great sense of stability and security

- God values loyalty
- Undivided loyalty is an important characteristic for all of us
- Loyalty will actually force you to take sides

People often think they can be loyal to everyone

Those who try to be loyal to everyone are not good friends to anyone

- Judas tried to be loyal to Jesus and the Pharisees
- He failed at both
- Ended up hanging himself
- You can't lift your hands on Sunday, and live like hell the rest of the week

Proverbs 18:24

24 The man of many friends [a friend of all the world] will prove himself a bad friend, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

There will be times you are forced to make a stand about where your loyalties lie

It is impossible to be a friend to the church and the world simultaneously

- Living for “One Cause” is about making tough decisions in life
- Including whom you are close friends with
- Do your close friendships love the church?
- At some point you will choose one side or the other
- Choose One Cause now!

There are a lot of great causes in the world to pursue, but try to tackle them all, and you won’t get far

- We can have a greater impact as a group than we can individually
- When we combine our efforts and resources we are much more effective
- We can make a bigger difference

Your contribution, your vision, linked to a united effort can make a much bigger difference

Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Bring **all the tithes** “*time, treasure, talents*” into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room enough to receive it.*

- The storehouse is the local church

When we work together our ability to meet people's needs, bring answers, and take the Gospel of Christ to the world increases

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Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Two *are* better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.

When we are truly united as one we are going in a single direction

- God's purpose and worldly pursuits cannot coexist
- A core business concept that doesn't have reaching the lost as a core value will ultimately cause you to have divided loyalties
- Time – Talent – Resources
- Wherever there is division, wrong motives, disloyalty, and disunity the purposes of God cannot stand strong

2 Corinthians 9:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, **he will provide and increase your resources** and then produce a great harvest of generosity* in you.

When your vision, your time, your giving, and your support are united with a single-minded church there is a great harvest that we all enjoy together

Everything about you – what you live for, how you live your life, and your confession can provoke people to think about eternity

- Your life is here on loan from God
- We are here to make an impact on the next generation
- We are stewards of the message of Christ
- What will we do with it?

Your vision is not just for you; it's for those to come

God promises to build a heavenly Jerusalem, built upon the cornerstone Jesus Christ

Psalm 102:12, 18 (NLT)

¹² But you, O LORD, will sit on your throne forever. Your fame will endure to every generation. ¹⁸ Let this be recorded for future generations, so that a people not yet born will praise the LORD.

- We should be committed to see the future generations do greater things than us
- Your life can impact the future
- God wants us to live with an eternal perspective that embraces the generations

Question:

“Will the Church of Jesus Christ be stronger or weaker because of my time here on earth?”

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