

Teamwork in the Local Church
Lesson Six: Able to Depend on One Another
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Introduction: What does it take for a Church to be Strong and Successful in the Work of the Lord?

- A. In fulfilling the work that God has given the church to do, Christians must work together toward common spiritual goals.
 - 1. To reach the lost of their community.
 - 2. To equip members for service and build them up in Christ.
 - 3. To provide benevolence to the needy of God's children.
 - 4. To worship God in spirit and in truth.
- B. Accomplishing these goals do not just happen.
 - 1. Members must be able to depend on one another to get the work done, not just during the easy times, but also during the difficult times.
 - 2. Being able to count on one another is absolutely essential!
- C. There are several spiritual qualities the membership absolutely needs to have in order to depend on one another and accomplish the work God has given her to do.

I. Dependable Christians Have Character.

- A. "Character" (DOKIME) is the process of proving ourselves (**Rom. 5:3-4**).
 - 1. Trials, sufferings, or the challenges of life test us and reveal to others what we are, what we are made of, our *character* (**2 Cor. 4:7-11**).
 - 2. If we are not able to count on each other when "the going get tough" then it will be difficult to trust one another (e.g. **Acts 13:13; 15:37-38**).
- B. Proven character results in greater trust and the ability to work together well.
 - 1. Proving ourselves trustworthy to one another will instill greater confidence to work together to carry out God's will (e.g. **2 Tim. 4:11**).

II. Dependable Christians are "Doers."

- A. It is not enough for a church to have great Bible students or "hearers."
 - 1. No amount of Bible study or the hearing of God's word preached will save our souls if we are not doing what the word says (**James 1:21-22**).
 - 2. The spiritual strength of a church is determined not just by its Bible study curriculum and study habits, but also by the good works they do.
- B. Christians you can count on are doers! (**James 1:25**).
- "Doers" (POIETES : 1. a maker, producer, author 2. a doer, performer one who obeys or fulfills the law" (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
 - 1. Does are not mere well wishers, but actively help those in need (**Jas. 2:14-17**).
 - 2. Doers do not dismiss the weak by saying: "Oh what a pity!" but do all they can to restore their erring brother or sister in Christ (**James 5:19-20**).
 - 3. Doers do not merely "amen" the sermon about reaching the lost, but are first to "sign up" for the next evangelistic task (**Mat. 28:18-20**).
 - 4. Doers are those you can count on to pray for you (e.g., **Col. 4:12**).
 - 5. Doers do all things "without complaining or arguing" (**Phil. 2:14**).
 - 6. A church filled with doers is reliable to get the work of the Lord done!

III. Dependable Christians are Committed.

A. Dependable Christians work “to the finish.”

1. Living the Christian life requires total commitment (**Luke 14:27-30**). There is only one kind of Christian – the fully committed Christian.
2. The church needs members who are in it for “the long haul,” who understands that the work of the Lord requires dedication and hard work.
3. Otherwise described by the Lord as “lukewarm” (**Rev. 3:16**), consider how little a church accomplishes that only do things half way.

B. Commitment in the church also means commitment to one another.

1. It’s not just about fulfilling your duty, but also about having strong devoted relationships, personal ties with your brethren (**Rom. 12:10**).
2. Whether its persecution, temptation, or troublesome times, you want to know that you can count on your brethren for help (e.g. **2 Tim. 1:15-18**).
3. When faced with challenges in life, it is good to know you can depend on your brethren for a helping hand.

IV. Dependable Christians are Consistent.

A. It is difficult to count on those who are unpredictable and sporadic.

1. These are weak in faith and unstable spiritually; driven by emotions, the heart is filled with faith one moment and doubt the next (**Jas. 1:6-8**).
2. Their beliefs in biblical truths are also unstable, constantly changing their minds what they believe; no firm footing in the truth (**Eph. 4:14**).

B. Christians are called to be consistent.

1. A church that is strong has members who are consistent to stay the course, to stand firm in the faith of the gospel (**Phil. 1:27**).
2. While we all have weaknesses and make mistakes, we still must strive for consistency in our beliefs and practices as Christians (**Col. 3:17**).
3. Isn’t it a great blessing to have brethren you can depend on and brethren who can depend on you? (e.g., **Rom. 1:9-10; 1 Thes. 1:3; Heb. 10:24-25**).

V. Dependable Christians Pull Together.

A. Instead of strife or division when there is a problem or disagreement, brethren you can depend on hold together tight!

1. Christians are commanded to be harmonious or of the same mind with one another (**1 Pet. 3:8; 1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 2:2; 4:2; Rom. 12:16**).
2. Whatever the problem may be: discord, strife, doctrinal differences, persecution or poverty, the church is to pull together not pull apart!

B. It is a wonderful blessing indeed when brethren dwell together in unity! (**Ps. 133:1**).

1. The church can remain a united team for God when the truth of God’s word remains their foundation (**John 17:17-24**).
2. Let us stick together even when it may become challenging to do so, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the church (**Eph. 4:1-3**).

Conclusion: Let Us resolve to be the Kind of People God called us to be - Dependable Christians That Work Together to Accomplish His Will!