

“Putting It All Together **By Brother Kenneth Ray** **Sunday, May 13th, 2012**

Team—a group of people constituting one side in a contest or competition. (b) group of people working together in a coordinated effort.

I took the time to look in the concordance (for those of you that don't know, a concordance is a reference book that you can use to find words in the Bible), and I didn't find the word, 'team' as a word listed in the Bible. I did find this though:

Ephesians 4:16 ...fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth...

Verse fifteen speaks about how we may grow up into Him in all things which I the head, even Christ. These two verses tell us, or, if you prefer, show us, how in Jesus and by Jesus we can be joined together. Has anybody worked in construction, and can tell us what compaction is? (Daniel came forward and defined 'compaction' as: "The process by which you compact the earth, and then you wait a little while, and compact it again, before you lay the foundation.") Basically, it means to drive together, to unite. It is when things are joined, or squeezed together, and you can lay a foundation on it.

Putting it all together. It says, "...every joint supplieth..." Each joint has something to offer. You know, if you mess up a joint, you're going to feel it. The body is made up of many pieces. If you lose your ring finger (in my line of work, that usually you were wearing a ring when you shouldn't have been)... Where's Bob Hiertzler? Bob had an accident at work several years ago and lost part of a finger. (Bob came up and showed his right hand, how he's missing most of his index finger.) Bob, does that affect you when you're trying to tie a fly? "Oh yes." Was it easier for you to tie flies before that happened? "Yes, it was a lot easier. I didn't realize how much I used that finger until I didn't have it any more." You don't realize how much you impact someone until you stop impacting them. You don't realize how much someone else affects you until they're not there anymore.

"...according to the effectual working in the measure of every part..." The Greek word for working, *Energieia* [G1753] means working, or efficiency. So, we are not to be part time, but full time in the measure (portion) of every part. This includes our gifts and abilities. If you have the ability to pray, then you should pray full time. If you have the ability to teach, then you should teach full time. Now that doesn't mean that you should teach every minute. If every time I ask you a question, you try to teach me the history of whatever it was I asked about, after a while, I'm just not going to ask you any questions.

If you lose a little bit of what you have, then the body is not as strong, and that goes for the body of Christ, as well.

Have you ever played the game of Life? There certain squares on the game board where it says in big letters, "STOP." It doesn't matter if you rolled a ten, when you get there, you have to stop. Let's stop here for a minute.

Does this sound, at least a little, like being a team? Are there any one-man teams? I know that there are some solo sports, but, even then, there are, a lot of times, teams. A boxer has his trainer... Can you name some non-sport teams? Orchestra, politics (now, wait a minute, we

don't want to talk about that), restaurants, ushers, board of directors, kitchen, workplace, emergency services, running a family, a hospital, the Avengers...

You see, it's not just the church body that uses teamwork. The difference is, we use teamwork to spread the Gospel. There are no one-man shows. Jesus was the closest thing to a one-man show.

Colossians 2:9 For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

If ever there was a one-man show, this was it. He chose to give His time to those around Him, and they knew that. That's why people came from miles around to listen to Him.

When he departed, He spake these words to the eleven that we have come to know as the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:19 Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name...

He did not commission cheerleaders. He did not commission applause signs. He did not commission teleprompters. He commissioned them (us) to continue on the work that He started.

You know, after you lay the foundation, then you need to pour the floor, and then build walls, etc. Some of us have minister's cards; what are we doing with them? How many of us are doing what we say we are, instead of saying that we're doing what we know we should be doing? One of my teachers taught me that if you want to make sure something gets done, give it to somebody who doesn't have time for it. Huh? Well, that way, they'll work to get it off their plate so that they can back to doing the other things that they don't have time to do.

2 Peter 1:5-8 ...add to your faith virtue, and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge...

Everything I know from math starts with one plus one equals two. After you learn addition, then you can learn subtraction, and then multiplication and division, but it all starts with one plus one equals two. We are supposed to be adding. In the business world, they call that compounding.

Ephesians 4:11-12 And He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists...

Which one are you? Maybe none. Maybe one. When a building is put up, it takes several different trades to complete that project: Masons, plumbers, framers, carpenters, electricians, painters, glazers, tile-workers, locksmiths, etc. They all have different abilities, but they are all needed to complete the building. Not every one in the body of Christ has the same ability.

1 Corinthians 12:28-30 ...Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers?...

No. The answer is no. Do your job. You must have the right tool for the job. You may be the best person at that one thing that needs to get done. You may be good at several things, and so are the best person for a particular task. If you lend yourself to God's work, then we are able to be used by God for the good of many. Put it all together, and there shall be good measure, overflowing both from us and to us; meeting needs and having needs met. I'm not just giving, I'm also getting; bringing salvation and much needed support to make it to journey's end.