

For Example: Co-Worker | Dave Solmes

1 Corinthians 3:9 | August 14, 2022


 **Read:** 1 Corinthians 3:9 / Ephesians 5:1-2

During our summer series called "For Example", we are seeing how Jesus' example, instruction, and strength, is meant to always inform how we get along with our human relationships.

***Question:** Name a time when you had a good co-worker and a poor co-worker?*

➤ God's "co-work" example can be seen by Jesus

Jesus example in word and deed is seen by way of His recognition and submission to His Heavenly Father's will.

 **Read:** John 10:30, Luke 2:49, John 5:19-20, John 5:30

***Question:** What do we learn about being a co-worker from Jesus example in word and deed?*

***INVITATION:** We follow Christ's example. By laying down our lives for matters much greater than our own, and by doing are God's co-workers.*

➤ We follow God's Example coming alongside all of Humanity

As a Christian we have been elevated to a role and responsibility of God's co-worker, fellow worker, associate, helper.

Our text says, 1 Corinthians 3:9, "For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

To BE Honest: There are times when I think about how I am doing with this. I think it would be easier if God just did it himself. The longer someone walks with God the more we learn about a God who doesn't need our help, but instead invites us into a working relationship for our well-being and growth.

***Question:** Why would God chose the way of co-worker?*

OUR TEXT SAYS, puts a name and designation on us:

A co-worker In God's Service. You are God's Field and You are God's building:

God's Field – this illustration speaks of a tilled field, a cultivated field ... God is working within us so that our lives are to always prepared to feed and nourish others. A life that others receive from and are enriched by,

God's Building: specifically, the building up of a person up to a suitable dwelling place for God. A person that is filled with very presence and purposes of God ... as God's co-worker ... we are being built into a temple. Building for His dwelling.

FIVE IDEAS ON HOW TO GROW AS A CO-WORKER

1. We need a good theology of work (service)

Here's something to ponder: the word "vocation," the term we use to describe what someone does for a living, actually comes from the Latin word which translates "calling." It's the same word Paul uses to describe work inside the church and work out in the marketplace. During our lives a Christian is to be thought of as walking out the vocation / calling God has upon our lives. While discovering God's will is not meant to be mysterious or confusing we do have to wrestle this to the ground.

It is God serving through us, as he uses our gifts / talents / time.

***Question:** In what ways are various professions used by God to care and provide for us and by doing so are God's co-workers?*

2. We must let God speak a new name over us: co-worker, God's field, God's building.

We are all God's image bearers We have been given by God's divine design a heart to work and create, and improve things in this world. Have you ever met someone who did not find great satisfaction from a job well done or fixing something that was broken.

Secondly, have you ever met some who does not inherently feel their work should have meaning beyond earning a living (income) – the longing to be about something bigger than ourselves. We want a sense that even the tedium of our jobs and daily routines serve a purpose. We want to make a positive impact on the world and collaborate with others to achieve common goal.

We would do well to Put a name on it –as God's co-worker: "I want my life to matter."

Quote: Dorothy Sayers wrote, "Work is to be seen, not as a necessary drudgery to be undergone for the purpose of making money, but as a way of life in which the nature of man should find its proper exercise and delight and so fulfill itself to the glory of God. It should, in fact, be thought of as a creative activity undertaken for the love of work itself; and man made in God's image, should make things, as God makes them, for the sake of doing well a thing that is well worth doing."

***Question.** In what ways does using God's names and imagery help us find significance in our work?*

3. Keep shifting your focus:

Be wise to always be changing your focus from looking out for yourself to unashamedly serving others – be a co-workers.

Concern for how we look to others and how often we are recognized for our contribution can steal precious energy from serving others. Co-workers are not competitors they are your complement.

- Deal with your own pride and tendencies for posturing by purposefully asking for help or by soliciting feedback from others.
- Find practical ways for others to be your co-worker
- Find ways to be a co-worker by Celebrating, promote, assisting others.
Co-workers are not rivals they are God appointed relationships.
- Find a human bond of shared value and work with your co-workers

4. Walk in the way of love

As a co-worker – Walk the pathway of Love Every Time. God places us in relationship so we will bond by learning dependence. Not independence.

Ephesians 5:1-2 – as dearly loved children, Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Always express love. It is a verb. Something we do.

5. Pray more and complain less

Colossians 1:9, For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.

Often the softness and softening of our hearts toward someone is a result of prayer. Repetitive prayer for someone, will expose us to our Father' love for people and this will change us every time.

CLOSE:

What work will you participate in this fall? And who will you do it with?