



2023 Christian Leadership Nexus Workshops Lessons

LESSON THREE

WALKING TOGETHER IN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE THE MINISTRY (ANALYSIS OF AMOS 3:3) OKOI OKA ABAM

1. INTRODUCTION

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 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. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing – Life forevermore.”
(Psalms 133: 1-3).

1.1 Behold How Good and How Pleasant it is for Brethren to Dwell Together in Unity

The Psalmist in the three verses above describes a reality that must exist among brethren who are walking together in agreement.

- a. There are “pleasantness” and “goodness” seen among them; the word “dwell” suggests “fellowship”, “Cooperation”, and “walking together in agreement”
- b. Therefore, the psalmist ex-rays the beauty, purity, oneness, and necessity of godly unity which must exist among brethren who are walking together in agreement.
- c. At Amos 3:3, in the original language of the Hebrews “AGREE” means “to make an appointment to meet together at an appointed time and place”.

Thus, God revealed in His word the time and places Christians are to meet with Him in their ministries (Services).

1.2 Biblical Examples

- a. The desire for one another to live and work together with agreement had been in the mind of God at creation- when He said *“It is not good for man to dwell alone...”* (Genesis 2:18).

- b. Cain attempted to destroy this idea of walking together in agreement by killing his brother Abel, and God showed his displeasure by the punishment He gave to Cain (Genesis 4:9).
- c. The settlers for the Tower of Babel were all in one accord; one of them sees the use of the words “Let us” “We” “Ourselves”, etc. (Genesis 11:1-4) - God responded “Behold, “they” are one people, and they all have the same language, and this is what they began to do and now NOTHING WHICH THE PURPOSE TO DO WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM (*emphasis added*). This statement of God was true then and shall always remain true in all ages.
- d. Christians in accomplishing the ministry of Jesus are to abide by the words of Jesus “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another even as I have loved you that you also love one another; by this all men will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another”. (John 13:34-35).
- e. Apostle Paul to Christians at Corinth. “...I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgments...” (1Corinthians 1:10f).

2. WHAT WALKING TOGETHER IN AGREEMENT IMPLIES

2.1 It implies Unity of Purpose

Two people who are going to work together on a certain project (ministry) must have an understanding of what is to be accomplished. The two must have a common purpose to pursue.

2.2 It implies unity of actions

People cannot walk together and accomplish the same purpose unless their actions are harmonious or in agreement.

2.3 It Implies fellowship

Co-operation and communion among them who walk together. There must be a bond of unity and sympathy one for another and considerable understanding of each other (Amos 3:3).

Therefore, for Christians to walk together with God implies that we must take directions from Him- We must work in harmony with God’s views to fulfil our ministry (Isaiah 1:18).

Church leaders must learn to walk together in agreement with all the members to walk with God in His:

- Paths – (Isaiah 2:30)
- Light – (Isaiah 2:5; 1John 1:7; Eph. 5:8)
- In His Son’s manner of life – (1 John 2:6)
- In love – Ephesians 5:2, etc.

3. THINGS THAT HINDER WALKING TOGETHER IN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE THE MINISTRY

3.1 Too Many Business Cares: A situation where church leaders and members are so engrossed in the affairs of their business that they do not have time for one another or the ministry.

3.2 Worldly Pleasures: The excesses in which we go in these worldly activities make it impossible for us to walk in agreement with God and with one another.

3.3 Self-Centeredness: Selfishness (Philippians 2:2-4)

3.4 Start Performance: This is often the result of hypocrisy in the heart.

3.5 Inconsiderate Attitudes: Not caring about what others think or feel about what you do or say. “Do it my way or leave it.”

3.6 Destructive Criticisms and Fault Finding: Always want to be recognized or be in control (3 John 9:11)

4. THINGS THAT ENCOURAGE WALKING TOGETHER IN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE THE MINISTRY

4.1 The word “Promote”

The word “Promote” Means “encourage” “develop” or “advertise”

- a. When Christ started the ministry on earth, He used men who followed Him, they watched Him do the work of ministry (services) and accomplished His task.
- b. Jesus our master teacher delegated His authority to these men and sent them out in “PAIRS”, SIX TEAMS OF TWOS (Mark 6:7).
- c. Here, Jesus taught both church leaders and members a very important lesson of the “ONE ANOTHER PRINCIPLE”.
- d. The New Testament is filled with such passages of “ONE ANOTHER” showing that the promotion of the ministry is never meant for one to “go it alone”

4.2 From the “Preacher” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

In Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, we learn the following lessons:

- a. That two who walk together in agreement are better than one person (v.9)
- b. That, they have a better reward for their labour of ministry (v 9).
- c. That, they will receive support and encouragement from their companionship (vv 10-11).
- d. Two of them can withstand any opposition that might come to destroy their relationship (v 12).

4.3 Church Leaders and Members are to Promote the Ministry of the Church by Agreeing to Do the Following Things

4.3.1 Church Leaders are to Agree to Become A Loving and Caring Fellowship of Christians in Which All Members Have Equal Opportunity for Spiritual Growth and Personal Fulfilment (Acts 2:42-45; 4:34ff)

- a. The more the early church was willing to share their lives, the greater the ties that bind them together.
- b. They grew in their love for one another through the sharing of trials and afflictions together.
- c. For them it was more than having the same faith and working together for the same goals- They ate together and shared their goods when anyone was in need, By so doing they were able to promote the ministry.

4.3.2 We are to Agree to Demonstrate the Loving Nature of Christ through Our Benevolent Programs That Will Benefit Both Members And Non-Members

When people perceive that they are something special and are treated particularly well, given attention, and can realise that the leaders have their interests at heart will encourage greater services and promote the work (ministry)

4.3.3 Leaders are to Agree to be Adapted to Others

- a. Much of the problems that arise in our ministry relate to “personality problems”.
- b. People are different, they have different socio-economic classes are different in ages, are from different family and ethnic backgrounds, and approach the Bible differently.

- c. Church leaders are not to give in to compromise concerning the faith, but on matters of expediency they should agree to adopt if by doing so they can promote the ministry and encourage spiritual growth (1Corinthians 9:22).

4.3.4 Church Leaders Are To Agree To Initiate Peace and Hold To It (Hebrews 12:14)

- a. First, we need to be at peace with ourselves before we can be at peace with another.
- b. For us to function effectively as “peacemakers” between God and man, we must be at peace with those around us (Matthew 5:9).
- c. There is no way we can effectively engage and promote the “ministry of reconciliation” and build peace among men if we are not at peace with others (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).
- d. To promote the ministry, we need to pursue peace and enthrone it in our daily lives (relationships) (Hebrews 12:14).

4.3.5 Leaders are to Agree to Provide an Encouraging Environment for others to ‘Serve’ from the Heart

People are more likely to work together to their capacity when they are in an encouraging atmosphere – where they are treated well, and valued for what they do. (1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14; Hebrews 3:13).

4.3.6 Leaders are to Agree to Proclaim God’s Word Faithfully throughout Our Community in the Most Effective Way Possible (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15f)

The mission of Jesus is expressed in Luke 19:10- The Church in every age (generation of men) will agree to “seek and to save the lost through evangelism.

How wonderful, when faithful brethren come together in the beauty of unity with one mind and one mouth to proclaim Christ to the lost. This will surely promote the ministry (Romans 15:6).

4.3.7 Church Leaders are to Agree to Equip the Brethren with the Knowledge of Christ for the Work of Ministry (Ephesians 4:12-16)

- a. In seeking to attain the measure of the stature that belongs to the fullness of Christ, members will be mature enough to identify and withstand false teachers and be able to speak the truth in love.
- b. Skills, and talents (abilities) of the brethren are discovered, developed, and distributed into fruitful services for the promotion of the ministry.

5. CONCLUSION/PRACTICAL TIPS

There are many denominations around us posing as a threat to the distinctive nature of the church; therefore church leaders should endeavour to set forth the church as a distinctive, God-ordained institution to differentiate her ministry from others (1Timothy 2:15; Ephesians 3:9-11).

- a. They should guard against error from within and from without. False teachers may arise from among the brotherhood to divide and destroy the ministry (Acts 20:28-31).
- b. They should not get involved in church politics. Christ authorizes men to be preachers of God's word, not politicians, your involvement in church politics may greatly hinder the progress of the ministry in your area.
- c. When church leaders and members walk together in agreement they are going to achieve great things.
 - The word of God will spread
 - There will be unity among all believers
 - The one church of Christ will be known by all men for her good works of ministry
 - Individual Christians will be edified and grow spiritually to the glory of God.

Leaders cannot walk together unless they agree. Leaders must agree to walk together to promote the growth of the Church. God bless you.