

Let's G.R.O.W. Together

1 Corinthians 3:5-14

It is the responsibility of every Christian to reach lost souls with the Gospel (Acts 8:1-4). Our **G.R.O.W.** ministry enables Christians fulfill this responsibility. **G.R.O.W.** is an acronym standing for **G**od **R**ewards **O**ur **W**ork.

Our text outlines these **four principles** of **G.R.O.W.** Let's focus on these four words—**GOD REWARDS OUR WORK**:



I. **"OUR WORK"**— **Equal PARTNERSHIP in the responsibility.**

A. There is a **WORK** to be **RENDERED** (vs. 6, 8, 13—planting, watering, labour, work)

1. *"I planted..."* – One plants the seed.
2. *"Apollos watered..."* – One waters the seed.
3. *"God gave the increase..."* – God germinates the seed.

➡ We are called *"God's husbandry"* (v. 9). *"Husbandry"* means "of the earth." It is a word that has to do with farming. It is saying we are like "farmhands" working on God's farm.

- The ministry involves plowing...sowing the seed...watering...harvesting.
- As you look around this auditorium you see the fruits of planting... watering... laboring. Each of us are the fruit and produce of God's farm.

➡ **G.R.O.W.** is working on God's farm.

- Mailing personal handwritten letters to homes with Gospel tracts. Many visitors have attended our services because they received a personal handwritten letter from someone serving on a G.R.O.W. team.
- Visitation
- Phone calls (follow-up).
- Sending encouragement cards on a weekly basis.

B. There is a **COOPERATION** that is **REQUIRED** (vs. 8, 9).

➡ Everyone has a part in reaching souls with the Gospel (v. 6).

➡ It is OUR working together with God that leads to growth.

➡ **Who flew the kite?**

"I did," said the sticks.

"I did," said the paper.

"I did," said the tail.

"I did," said the string.

"I did," said the wind.

But they all flew the kite together. If the sticks broke... the paper torn... the tail caught in a tree... or the string fell off... or the wind stopped, the kite would not fly. Each had a part to fly the kite.

Like the flying a kite, we each have a work to do in reaching souls with the Gospel. Some do the work of visiting...preaching...writing letters...making phone calls...baking pies/brownies.

➡ **It is a matter of TEAMWORK.** John Maxwell—"It is a talent that puts you on a team, but it is TEAMWORK that wins the game."

- **T = Together** ("*...we are labourers TOGETHER with God...*") The implication is God is dependent upon us as co-laborers. If no one plants or waters, there will be no increase!
- **E = Everyone** ("*...EVERY MAN shall receive his own reward...*")
- **A = Assisting** ("*...I have laid the foundation, and ANOTHER BUILDETH thereon*")
- **M = Mission** ("*...ministers by whom YE BELIEVED...*")

Our effectiveness is multiplied as we work together as a team. I once read about how a platoon of soldiers were told when they cross over an old bridge not to march in cadence. Because if they tromp, tromp, tromp in unison over a bridge, the power of their marching may weaken the supports that hold up the bridge.

Have you ever been in a stadium when everyone in the stands are told to stomp their feet together. The sound is magnified and the vibrations are felt all over the stadium.

Years ago Billy Graham conducted a crusade at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. Everyone was given a match as they entered. At specific time Billy Graham gave a cue to turn out the lights in the stadium. It was pitch dark. Billy Graham lite his match and held it up. It was a little pinpoint of light. Graham then instructed everyone in the stadium to light the match they were given. The entire Cotton Bowl was filled with light.

Let's shine together to make the **light of the Gospel** known to those around us (Mt. 5:14-16; 2 Cor. 4:4-6).

II. "GOD REWARDS"— Equal PARTAKERS in the reward (v. 8 —*"Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour"*).

- ➡ Notice it doesn't say SUCCESS. Each are rewarded according to his OWN LABOR, not success.
- ➡ Do your work faithfully as a part of God's team. Verse 8 says, *"he what planteth and he that watereth ARE ONE."* They are EQUAL—one in purpose, one in importance... **There are no superstars on God's team**, only co-workers performing their own special roles.
- ➡ Oswald Chambers said, **"There are no such things as prominent service and obscure service—it is all the same with God."**
- ➡ 1 Samuel 30:24 teaches several principles about partnership in the Lord's work—While David was fleeing from Saul, he made his home in Ziklag with 600 men and their families who were loyal to David.
 1. One time while David and his men were away on a mission, the Amalekites raided Ziklag and took all the men's families captive. When David returned and found everything gone, he and his men set out to rescue their families.
 2. At one point 200 of David's men were unable to continue in the pursuit—perhaps because they were too old or too inexperienced. They remained at the brook Besor to guard the belongings of the other 400 men while they went on to battle the Amalekites.

3. The Amalekites were defeated and David recovered all the Amalekites had taken including a great spoil.
4. When the 400 returned to the brook Besor, several who fought in the battle opposed giving any of the spoils to the 200 who stayed behind to guard the stuff (vs. 21-22).
5. David rejected their complaint and made an ordinance that *“as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike”* (v. 24).

➡ **APPLICATIONS:**

- A. **The DIVERSITIES of callings.** 400 of David’s men went to battle; 200 guarded the baggage. David considered both tasks equally.
 1. In God’s work, there are many tasks involved. In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul lists several different tasks in the church (1 Cor. 12:28). All are important and necessary.
 2. God does not judge us on what our calling is, but on our **faithfulness** in fulfilling our calling. The men who guarded the baggage would not get the attention as those who fought on the battlefield. But they were recognized equally because they were faithful.
- B. **The DEPENDENCE of collaboration.** The guarding of the baggage by the 200 men aided the 400 who fought the battle.
 1. Callings are dependent on one another. We are not rivals— but allies. We are not in *competition*—We are in *collaboration* with each other.
 2. In any team sport like soccer / football / basketball, you must learn to play as part of a team. You cannot win the game by yourself. You must be a TEAM PLAYER.

➡ *“For the body is not one member, but many”* (1 Cor. 12:14)

 - Moses had Aaron
 - Joshua had Caleb
 - David had Jonathan
 - Paul had Silas

- Not even Jesus did everything on His own. He chose twelve. The twelve followed His pattern and worked together as a team.

Missionaries cannot do their work unless we at home provide support. Church leaders cannot perform their task if those in the pew do not do their job also. We can't all do the same work to the same level, but we all have a part.

- C. **The DESERVING of compensation.** Everyone would share in the booty (John 4:36-38).
- D. **The DECLARATION of credit (30:23).** The real credit for winning the battle goes to the Lord. God gave them the victory. David's rationale was if it were God that gave the victory and the spoils, it must be shared equally (cf. 1 Cor. 4:7).

SUMMATION: I pray you will enlist to serve on a G.R.O.W. team during the next 12 months.

- There is something ANYONE can do in G.R.O.W. (See card).
- G.R.O.W. teams meet once a month for about 1½ hours (see Card). I am asking you to make a commitment to serve on a G.R.O.W. team once a month for the next 12 months—That amounts to a total of only 18 hours for the entire year (less than a day!). Can you commit to less than ONE DAY next year to be involved in the most important business in the world—Helping to get the Gospel into the homes of people in our area?
- If you don't **schedule** a time to serve in G.R.O.W. it won't get done!
- You can indicate your preference for which team you would like to serve on.

If you are new to G.R.O.W. we have a DVD video of 4 training sessions you can watch in your home before you start. Indicate "NEW" on the top of your card, and we will supply you with the training DVD's.