

CITY CHURCH DNA DEVOTIONAL – WEEK 3

DNA Day 13 – Your place in God's team part 1

For the next two weeks in our DNA devotionals we'll be focusing on the value of team and what it means for you, your friends and family, your workplace, our church, our city and the wider world.

Today we're considering the question, ***How does our biblical understanding of team shape our own sense of identity?***

The Christian life isn't an individualistic one. Jesus asks that we deny our own selfish desires and ambitions—our whole selves—and put all of our trust in His ways and follow Him. We no longer live for ourselves, but we join with His plans and purposes—we join His team!

A team shares the same goals and purposes, and ultimately follows the lead and guidance of its captain. God draws us into His wider plans and purposes and wants to use each of us to play our part.

Paul reminds us in Romans that:

*...none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; if we die, we die for the Lord. **Romans 14:7–8.***

Pray

Lord, thank you that I get to be part of Your team. Help me not to live each day for myself, but for You. Help me to understand more deeply that I am a new creation, and that I can trust You to lead and guide me each day.

DNA Day 14 - Your place in God's team part 2

What do you think it looks like to live as part of God's team?

Jesus provides us with a perfect example of one who lived a life in complete submission to the Father's will: a life full of selflessness, service and sacrifice.

In Philippians, Paul encourages us to imitate the love and humility of Jesus, particularly in how we relate to those around us:

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourself, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others. **Philippians 2:3–4.***

We aren't to strive to be the most valued, respected and honoured team member. Rather, like Jesus, we are called to selflessly love others, humbly serving their needs and valuing them above ourselves.

Pray

Lord, thank you that Jesus provides us with a perfect example of a life lived fully for You—a life centred on serving and loving others. Help me to be more like Jesus, to value others above myself and to serve the needs of those around me in all that I do.

DNA Day 15 - Team, your friends and your family part 1

How can our understanding of team change our perspective of our relationships with our friends and family?

Within our relationships it can be hard to avoid comparison. But within a team, comparison is often damaging – it can cause divisions and discontentment, and can make us doubt our own identity in Christ.

In his first letter to the church in Corinth, Paul uses the image of a body made up of many essential parts to remind us that each of us is made uniquely by God, and each of us has a unique part to play in His plan and purposes:

...God has placed the parts of the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you" and the head cannot say to the feet "I don't need you!" **1 Corinthians 12:18–21.**

Being part of a team doesn't mean that we all need to be the same—God made each of us with unique personalities, skills, interests and giftings. When we join with those around us and allow our various gifts to work together, we flourish.

Pray

Father, please forgive me for comparing myself with others in my life, rather than praising You for the way You've made me. Help me to be a blessing to my friends and family, and to rejoice in how You've made each of us unique.

DNA Day 16 – Team, your friends and your family part 2

Today we're considering the question, ***How does the value of team impact what you are called to do alongside those closest to you?***

A well-functioning, united team shares the same values, objectives and vision. They share in the same struggles, but also celebrate the same victories.

This is exactly how God calls us to work with those around us. God has designed us to live in community and to work as a team: sharing our burdens, supporting one another and rejoicing in each other's successes.

The writer of Hebrews encourages us to live this way:

*...let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another. **Hebrews 10:24–25.***

Pray

Lord, thank you for those You have placed in my life. Help me to walk alongside them well by loving, encouraging and supporting them through all things.

DNA Day 17 – Team in the workplace part 1

Whether you mostly work on your own, or alongside others, ***how can your understanding of team shape your sense of value within your workplace?***

When we approach God, He doesn't ask us to prove ourselves or show our qualifications—we don't have to submit an application, or go through a lengthy interview. Jesus says:

*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:6.***

Because of Jesus, we are all equally qualified to come to God and join His team. We don't have to compete with others for a place—we are all welcomed in because of His grace.

Being confident and secure in our place in God's team means that we don't need to seek approval from our colleagues or find our value in our career success. No matter how our day at work has been, we can be secure in the knowledge that we are deeply loved and accepted by God.

Pray

Lord, thank you that because of Jesus, I can come to You without fear of condemnation or rejection. Please help me to remember that no matter how I perform in my role at work, I am loved and accepted by You, all because of the work and grace of Jesus.

DNA Day 18 - Team in the workplace part 2

How does your biblical understanding of team shape your purpose in your workplace?

This week we've seen that living out the value of team means we no longer just live for ourselves, but we join with God's plans and purposes, working to glorify and serve Him in all that we do—including in our work.

In Colossians, Paul instructs followers of Jesus:

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. **Colossians 3:23–24.***

This is such a helpful reminder that we are to do everything as an act of worship to the Lord. This perspective changes everything. It means that when we work honestly and diligently for our boss at work, we are actually working in obedience and worship to God.

Focusing on this truth gives us fresh perspective and purpose as we go to work each day, and challenges us to work hard and serve faithfully in our workplaces—not to prove ourselves, but to glorify God.

Pray

Lord, however I feel about my work today, I pray that I would remember that I am serving You through my work. Help me to do my work wholeheartedly, and that as I do so You would transform my heart, my workplace and those around me.