

**We Are Teammates (“Fellow workers”) on God’s Team
1 Corinthians 3:9
September 19, 2021**

Bible Study 2: We Each Have a Role on God’s Team

We are teammates on God’s Winning Team! As a result of Jesus’ perfect life, his sacrificial death on the cross, and his victorious resurrection from the dead, we are victorious over our opponents – the devil, the world, our flesh, and death. We are winners!

As teammates on God’s winning team, we have a position(s) ... a role(s) ... to play as we proclaim to people locally and support globally His conquest so that other people might become our teammates and share in His victory! What remains for us to do is to mature in our faith as we are discipled and as we are being discipled, we disciple other people so that they might experience the forgiveness of sin, a new sanctified life in Christ, and the resurrection of the body to life everlasting.

Even the Persons of the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – have different positions or roles!

Who Is “Upper Management?” The Father

Ephesians 1:20-23: *“He worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”*

John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

Who is the “Player Coach?” The Son

Ephesians 1:23: *“And he put all things under his feet and gave him [Christ] as **head over all things** to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”*

Colossians 1:18, *“And he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”*

John 6:38-40, *“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”*

Romans 5:8, *“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Who is the “Scout” ... the “Recruiter?” The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit! is more than a “scout” or “recruiter” for the Holy Spirit, working “*behind the scenes*” through His Word and Sacraments, delivers the blessings of Jesus’ victory to us and keeps us in the one true faith until we “*retire*” into life everlasting.

John 14:26, *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”*

Acts 1:4-8, *“And while staying with them he [Jesus] ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Acts 2 (Pentecost Day):

- **Verse 4:** *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*
- **Verses 37-39**, *“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”*
- **1 Corinthians 12:3b**, *“No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.”*

Who are the “Players” on God’s Team? We are!

Matthew 28:18-20, *“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

John 20:21, *“Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”*

- **The “Hall of Famers” (Hebrews 11)**

Abel (4) ... Enoch (5) ... Noah (7) ... Abraham and Sarah (9, 11), Isaac (20), Jacob (21), and Joseph (22) ... Moses’ parents (23) ... Moses (24ff.) ... people of Israel (29-30) ... Rahab (31).

32-37, *And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— 38 of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

Who is a “hall of famer” in your life?

What is your role/position on the team? Our task, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, is to execute God’s “*game plan*” using our gifts, talents, and other resources in our various positions/roles.

- **1 Cor. 12:5-11:** *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”*
- **Romans 12:4-8:** *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”*

Discuss: As we consider the question, “How do we know what our roles/positions are on God’s team at St. James?” it may be helpful to ask ourselves: “How has God gifted

me? What are my interests? What are my talents? What am I passionate about? What gives me joy when I serve God and serve other people?" It might be helpful to ask other people how they would answer these questions when they think of you.

Discuss: It is said, "*Stats are good, but wins are better.*" What does that statement mean when applied to an athlete on a team? How might this statement apply to a person on God's team?

Interesting trivia: What do Charles Barkley (of the NBA), Ken Griffey Junior (of MLB) and Marcel Dionne (of the NHL) have in common?

Discuss: How is the role of Pastor and lay person different?