

Shoulder to Shoulder Bible Study

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church
We Have the Vision to be a LEARNING Church!
We are Rooted in Christ and Reaching the One!

Pastor Ken Patterson, Ph.D.



Book: *Shoulder to Shoulder: Strengthening Your Church
by Supporting Your Pastor*

By
Dan Reiland



Facilitators

Bro. Thomas Clement, Sis. Hillary Harris, Sis. Angela Oatis, and Rev. Harold Whitaker

Chapter 3

Don't Pick Up Your Marbles and Go Home

Jeremiah 3: 15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Introduction: If you have ever watched children play, you will have at some point seen an argument. You will hear phrases such as “That’s mine”, “Leave me alone”, “But, I want to do this”, or the big one “fine, I quit”. In each instance, we see the childlike behavior ruining what could be an enjoyable moment. The underlying problem in the phrases mentioned by children (and adults) lies in the central focus which is me, my, mine, and I. Those who so often focus on themselves rarely see the bigger picture nor do they understand that the enjoyment of play occurs when everyone focuses on the enjoyment of play. In the church similar actions must occur. As the pastor leads the congregation, members should not focus inwardly, but should focus on the group, the vision of the church, and the central mission of ministry. As a result, everyone finds their role and finds fulfillment as members of Christ’s body.

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

You Belong to an Imperfect Church!

Did you know that you belong to an imperfect church? Let's list some ways that your church is imperfect.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

- Why do you think it is perfect that your church is not perfect yet?

How to Handle the I in Church?

Philippians 2:1-8 teaches us to do what? _____ This passage reminds each of us that our desires and wants are primary or secondary _____.

- Why do you think we struggle in this area?

Get Real Moment:

Share with your members (Pastor Ken will not hear your answers) some of the adjustments that caused you discomfort.

- Should Pastors work to make people happy? Why or why not? As a group review the last two paragraphs on page 45. Why do you think Pastor Ken is pushing for The Mount to be comfortable with modern technology, a wider variety of music, a slightly different worship structure, and casual (but appropriate) dress? How does this make you feel?

Attitude and Team ☺

How does attitude impact the success of the church team?

5 Keys to Success

1. Choose a positive attitude about your church and pastor.
Your attitude about your church and pastor will infect the way you serve Christ.
2. Believe in the best intent of everyone
3. Give people the benefit of the doubt
4. Remember, it is not a competition. We win together and we lose together. 1 Corinthians 12: 26
5. Ask, "What would Jesus do in this situation?"

5 Keys to A Successful Team

1. Cooperation-We have been called to unity, which means we must work together and push The Mt. Zion ministry in the direction of the vision given by our pastor
2. Communication-Clear communication of the vision of the church helps people to know what to do. We must ensure that all parties understand their role and feel comfortable interacting with everyone. No cliques allowed!
3. Change-oriented-no organization that is growing remains the same. Support your pastor in pushing the church to grow spiritually, physically, and financially.
4. Contribution-Commit to fulfilling your total role on the team which includes, time, talent, and treasure.
5. Commitment-Your pastor needs you to be all in. This means you have decided to be 100% about the success of the ministry of The Mount Zion Church.

What Did you Learn This Week?

Closing Prayer