

Collab #1 Review:

Collab =

two or more people partnering together as a team to accomplish an agenda great than their own and a goal greater than their own.

Collab is:

- 1. Part of God's nature and character.**
- 2. Embedded in God's design for humanity.**

Did anyone?

1. Reflect on this statement:

God is committed to fulfilling the work of his kingdom through the church, ministering together in collaborations that express a graciously and Sovereignly distributed diversity of gifts. The power for collaborative ministry is rooted in believing the Gospel together, building the ministry out of prayer, and reflecting the nature of the Trinity in our collaborative partnerships.

If so, what stuck out to you from this statement?

2. How tribal are you? Did you take the truth over tribe quiz?

COLLAB #2:

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1. COLLABORATE

Success isn't just getting to a goal. In fact, you can get to the goal but fail to collaborate as a team. God's Spirit distributes gifts to God's people according to God's will, for the very purpose of collaboration. The church, teams, marriages, workplaces, only succeed when they collaborate and must include collab as part of the definition of success.



Let's read 1 Corinthians 12:4-31

V8-10 How many differing gifts can you count?

V11 How do you choose which gift you get from the Spirit?

V7 What is the point of people getting gifts?

When it comes to collab of the church, no one can say, "*I don't belong*" nor "*my gifts don't matter*". No one should say "*I don't need you*" not "*your gifts don't matter*" or "*my gifts matter more*" or "*because you don't get my gifts, I don't need you.*"



Discuss:



Which of the italicized phrases above sticks out to you? Why?

We might not say any of those phrases outloud, but how do we/you function as if those statements are true?

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2. COMMIT TO THE COLLABORATION

In our commitment phobic culture, people often have one foot in and one foot out, "just in case...." Or there is often a mistaken sense that something "magic" might happen just because YOU showed up. But for a collaboration to be successful, people must:

-Commit to the vision for the ministry, church, organization, or partnership. Take ownership. "This is what I'm doing" vs "This is what we're doing". (Jesus' instructs disciples to own vision - Acts 1:8)
Example: Marriage: Make Me Happy vs Vows of Holy Marriage

-Commit to Show up and Serve. When it comes to teams at church, one of the greatest challenges team leaders have is when people treat service as optional. Signing up to serve is not the same as showing up to serve. Showing up to serve at the time you want is not the same as showing up to serve at the time agreed to. Some of this is cultural, but some of this is lack of commitment.
(See the devotion of the early church to ministry practices & each other - Acts 2:42-45)

-Committing = freedom. People often ignore commitment in order to keep their options open. But freedom actually comes from everyone committing to a team because you don't have to carry the load alone.

-Commit to Communicate - People collaborating must commit to communicate with each other. This often feels like it is slowing things down and draining energy. But any successful team will hit a season of conflict where they will need to slow down and communicate in order to move forward. (Philippians 4:2-3)



Which commitment do you struggle with? Take a moment to think and circle it above.

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3. ENDURE HARDSHIPS TOGETHER

Hardships on teams include rejection, conflict, failure, accusation & division from Satan, and being hurt by each other's sin. But experiencing and enduring hardships is part of God's process.

Hardships are part of God's recipe for success as He defines it. (Romans 5:1-5, James 1:2-4).

Why does that sound so foreign? We define success very differently in our culture. Rather than being made into the image of Christ, we see success as:

"Live your best life"

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

So when teammates, partners, spouses, church family, get in the way of that goal, we think something is wrong. Instead, we need to see these hardships as part of the process or evidence the other person is bad.

This is not "feel bad Christianity", but rather the reality of collabing with fellow broken sinners in a broken world for the sake of the Gospel.

The presence of pain doesn't mean it is time to quit the collab.

2 Tim 2:3,10-12; 3:10-12, 4:1-5 - Paul's last letter to Timothy is fundamentally about the need for endurance and relying on the power of the Gospel.

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4. EMBRACE WEAKNESS

Weak people can't rely on their own resources, past successes, or air-tight plans. Rather, weak people rely on:

-the presence of the Spirit freely given to the team by Jesus.

-the power of the Gospel - God generously pouring out His love and grace on the team.

-the promises of God as the engine for the team, rather than someone's gifting or vision.

-finding strength together through prayer together.

Prayer Together

What's your take-away from tonight?

Next Wednesday:

Jan 25 - Powerful Collabs

What is the driving engine for us as we partner together?

self-reflection in prep for next week

how do you function...orphan or child of God?

Orphans	Children of God
<p>I will not leave you as orphans... (John 14:18)</p>	<p>But he has given us the Spirit of sonship and by him we cry, "Abba, Father!" (Romans 8:15)</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Feels alone. Lacks a vital daily intimacy with God. Is full of self-concern.</p>	<p>Has a growing assurance that "God is really <i>my</i> loving heavenly Father."</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Anxious over felt needs: relationships, money, health. "I'm all alone and nobody cares. I'm not a happy camper."</p>	<p>Trusts the Father and has a growing confidence in his loving care. Is being freed up from worry.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Lives on a succeed/fail basis. Needs to "look good" and "be right." Is performance-oriented.</p>	<p>Learning to live in daily, conscious, partnership with God. Is not fearful.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Feels condemned, guilty, and unworthy before God and others.</p>	<p>Feels loved, forgiven, and totally accepted because Christ's merit really clothes him.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Has little faith, lots of fear, lots of faith in himself: "I've got to fix it."</p>	<p>Has a daily <i>working trust</i> in God's sovereign plan for her life as loving, wise, and best. Believes God is good.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Labors under a sense of unlimited obligation. Tries too hard to please. Burns out.</p>	<p>Prayer is the first resort: "I'm going to ask my daddy first." Cries "Abba, Father!"</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Rebellious. Resists authority. Heart is hard. Is not easily teachable.</p>	<p>Has strength to be submissive. Has a soft (broken and contrite) heart. Is teachable.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Defensive. Can't listen well. Bristles at the charge of being self-righteous (thus proving the point).</p>	<p>Open to criticism since she <i>consciously</i> stands in <i>Christ's</i> perfection, not her own. Is able to examine her unbelief.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Needs to be right, safe, secure. Unwilling to fail. Unable to tolerate criticism. Can only "handle" praise.</p>	<p>Able to take risks and even fail, since his righteousness is in Christ. Needs no "record" to boast in, protect, or defend.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Excessively self-confident or self-loathing. Discouraged, defeated. Lacks spiritual power.</p>	<p>Confident in Christ and encouraged because of the Holy Spirit's work in her.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Tends toward an "I can do it myself!" attitude. Is strong-willed, driven.</p>	<p>"I can do all things through <i>Christ</i> who gives me strength!"</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Unbelieving effort. Relies only on his gifts to get by in ministry.</p>	<p>Trusting <i>less</i> in self and more in the Holy Spirit—a daily, conscious, reliance.</p>