

Words That Hinder & Words That Help Our Growth - Part 5 | Teamwork

Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.

2 Corinthians 13:5 MSG

“Pay attention to your condition, and see whether you are in Christ or not. It is the easiest thing in the world to give high marks when grading your own paper. Be honest and fair. Be gracious to all, but be rigorous with yourself.”

- Charles Spurgeon

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27 NIV

“Christianity means community in Jesus Christ and through Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

1. Self-Righteous Individualism

2. Half-Hearted Relationships

Self-Righteous Individualism - My identity and rights supersede the efforts of the collaboration.

“Although religious people often speak about community, individualism infects the religious experience of many persons. Parishes, dioceses, and church institutions appear impersonal and alienating in the eyes of many. Evangelization is not the priority it should be.”

- John McRaith

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

Matthew 16:24-26 NIV

Self-Denying Conformity - Surrendering my identity to conform to Christ's image

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2 NIV

“The Christian life is a great paradox. Those who die to self, find self. Those who die to their cravings will receive many times as much in this age, and, in the age to come, eternal life. They will find new passions worth living for and dying for. If I crave happiness, I will receive misery. If

I crave to be loved, I will receive rejection. If I crave significance, I will receive futility. If I crave control, I will receive chaos. If I crave reputation, I will receive humiliation. But if I long for God and His wisdom and mercy, I will receive God and wisdom and mercy. Along the way, sooner or later, I will also receive happiness, love, meaning, order, and glory.”

- David Powlison

Half-Hearted Relationships - I am unwilling to be known or to know others.

“A friend is more to be longed for than the light; I speak of a genuine one. And wonder not: for it were better for us that the sun should be extinguished, than that we should be deprived of friends; better to live in darkness, than to be without friends”

- John Chrysostom

in the same way we had a fond affection for you and were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 NASB

You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

John 15:14-15 NIV

Radical Companionship - The willingness to connect through the power of shared obedience.

“A man who confesses his sins in the presence of a brother knows that he is no longer alone with himself; he experiences the presence of God in the reality of the other person.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Teamwork is not a preference, it is a requirement.”

- John Wooden