

The Power of Three

By Rev. Greg Creasy

Have you heard the statement that a strand of three chords is stronger than just one? If you try this experiment, you will quickly discover that this is true. This principle can be applied to other areas as well. For instance, we have been studying and learning that there is power when we join our efforts together in ministry. We can do so much more together that we can alone.

I want us to look at the power of three in a little different aspect. I would like for you to consider the power of doing three things as an investment in your relationship with Jesus Christ. Three things that need to be seen in balance with each other...Worship, Study, and Service! These are the three aspects of your commitment to Jesus Christ that can make a difference in your life and the lives of others. This coming year, I would like for you to make a commitment to consider bringing these three things into balance in your life.

Worship is an important aspect of our Christian lives.

We all worship something. Look at the amount of time you spend doing a certain activity or the amount of money and energy you apply to something in your life. As followers of Jesus Christ, our worship must be pure and simple. Jesus said it this way, *“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth”* (John 4:23 - 24 NIV). We must worship God in spirit and truth...allowing our lives to be opened and changed by the presence of God in our worship. We must also come together in worship. It is one thing to say you worship in your living room while watching a television preacher, but something totally different when we come together with other Christians to worship God. Our worship is important enough that I want to challenge you to come to worship each week. You might come on the first Saturday of the month and worship in our Ignition service, or you might come on Sunday morning or evening. The important thing is to come to worship in a corporate setting.

Study is an important aspect of our Christian lives.

Have you noticed in your job that you are constantly learning? Have you been learning something at school? There is never a time when we can say that we have learned everything there is to know about God and the Bible. I have been reading and studying the Bible for over 30 years and I still don't know all there is to know. I need to study the Word of God. Now it is one thing to read the Bible and study it by myself and another to study the Bible with other people. I can learn from both types of study, but my life is richer as a result of studying with other Christians. When we open up with others, we give our insights and receive theirs. The Bible tells us... *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15 NIV). We need each other as we study the Word of God together. We need to be diligent in our pursuit of a deeper relationship with the Lord and our Christian brothers and sisters. I want to ask for your commitment to come to a Sunday School class or to get involved in a small group. I know you will be blessed and that you will grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Service is an important aspect of our Christian lives.

Using the gifts and talents that God has given you will be a blessing to you and others. We have seen the power of each and every person using their God given talents for the Lord. Remember that line that you heard many times...We are Better Together! It really is true. Really...if everyone gave a little bit of time and effort, no one would be over worked or burned out. The Bible says, *“Therefore, I*

urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship” (Romans 12:1 NIV). We must offer our lives to God for his glory and honor and for the building up of the church of Jesus Christ. I want to ask for your commitment of giving at least one hour of your week to the Lord's work. Sing in the choir, play in the Praise team, teach a Sunday School class, stay with the Preschool children on Sunday morning, serve as an usher, run the sound board, visit a shut-in, fold a bulletin or newsletter...offer your gifts and time to the Lord throughout the week.

Worship, Study and Service...these things are so simple when you break them down. I want you to consider making these three aspects of your Christian life a priority in the coming year. We are going to study about these on Sunday mornings at the beginning of the year. I trust that you will open your heart to God as we do. I look forward to both watching you grow spiritually and seeing the growth of our Church as we make these commitments together.

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