

Order of St Barnabas

May the words of my mouth, the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, my God, Redeemer, comforter and advocate Amen.

It is a distinct honour for me to have been invited to be a celebrant and preacher at this August Ceremony on behalf of the order of St Barnabas. This conference is long overdue but because of circumstances beyond our control, it had to be postponed by at least three years since its inception. Psalm 133:1 “behold how good and how lovely it is when brothers live together in unity.

The psalmist said it was good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity. This unity was likened to the anointing upon Aron’s head flowing down over his body to the very skirts of his garments. It was also likened to the refreshing dew of Hermon. The psalm certainly can be applied to Christ, our Great High Priest and to his Priestly body, the Church. The Key is Unity.

The same anointing flows from the Head to the members of the Body and where there is unity there is Blessing, there is life. Although the principle of this psalm is applicable to the whole body of Christ, the Church universally and locally, is applied more especially to the ministries in the local churches for if the ministries, the Bishop, Priests and Deacons and Lay Ministers do not flow together in unity, then the people will find it difficult to do so.

As a local church grows then then plurality of leadership will emerge. It is imperative that all working together as a team, brethren dwelling together in unity. Otherwise plurality can never work as God intended it to. The Bible shows the working together of ministries and principles that make the team work.

Weather we speak of the staff or eldership or ministry, all together they constitute a team, the brethren dwelling together in unity.

Webster's dictionary defines a team or teamwork as: to harness or yoke together as a team, to join in a cooperative activity, joint action by a group of people in which each person subordinates his individual interests and opinion to the unity and efficiency of the group. Coordinated effort as of an athletic team. The word was especially used of a team of horses harnessed to the same vehicle or plow and pulling their weight together. So, we may say that team ministry is when two or more ministers minister together. It is a coordinated joint effort in which individual ministries blend together in submission to each other to reach a common spiritual goal.

Ministers become:

- fellow-workers together (Colossians 4:11)
- Fellow-Soldiers (philipians2:25, philemon2)
- fellow-servants (Matt18:29,33, Revelation19:10)
- fellow-labourers (1Thessalonians3:2)
- fellow-helper (3John8,2 Corithians8:23)
- fellow-disciples(John11:16)
- Fellow-Citizens (Ephesians2:9)
- Fellow-Heirs (epphisians3:6)
- And in fellowship with each other (Galatian2:9)

A Team therefore is a group of persons joined together in the same mind, speaking the same thing and going the same direction. The Bible not only provides us with standard of Christian Characters and lifestyle but also provides yoked together in the Gospel of Christ.

in the Godhead: the nature, character and function of a team is seen and demonstrated in the God head as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God never asked men to do anything that he has not demonstrated in his own eternal Being. The Father Son and Holy Spirit as three persons, each with distinctive ministry and function, are one in mind, will and judgement, one in purpose.

In the Godhead, there is plurality coequality, distinctive ministry and function, submission, order and unity. That is where in the Godhead we see this unity and plurality.

In Israel: Jethro principle, Moses was the pastor, Shepard, educator, official representative and administrator of the church in the wilderness(acts7:38) the burden upon one man was too great, Jethro gave Moses a word of wisdom by suggesting that he bring a teamwork of qualified men

Qualification:

1. Men who were able, God gives various abilities to people which need to be discerned and recognised.
2. Men who fear God, fear a constant awareness that God is watching in all we think, do, say
3. Men of Truth, Honest Transparent, men of integrity, no Hypocrisy, no deception
4. Men hating covetousness, covetousness is the root of sin, one can covet position, power, glory, money ect.
5. Men of wisdom and knowledge and understanding:
 - 1 Knowledge, the possession of facts
 - 2 Understanding the interpretation of facts
 - 3 Wisdom, the application of facts

The late President Nelson Mandela wrote to a letter to his wife Winnie, then in Pretoria central prison on the 01-08-1970 “one day we may have on our side the genuine and firm support of an upright and straightforward man, holding high office, who will consider it improper to shirk his duty of protecting the rights and privileges of even his bitter opponents in the battle of ideas that is being fought in

our country today” when he spoke of unity he said “ only a united movement can successfully undertake of uniting the country”. I also say that to you Lay ministers unity in us will concur our responsibility or duty given to us to perform. Amen