

*how do i live the gospel in my world?*

---

**Why Is Abiding  
With Others  
Essential, and How  
Do We Do It?**



# Abiding As A Team

## Word Wisdom

### READ

If you want to grow in the Lord, you have to surround yourself with people who will encourage you in your walk. If you want to reach your world and your campus, you have to work together with these brothers and sisters! Because of this, it is important that you gather a team of people who have a burden to reach their peers. Work through this section with your ministry team. This ministry team is different from a "leadership team" that you would need for an on-campus Bible club or other organized ministry. (To learn more about forming a leadership team and an organized on-campus ministry, please see the section entitled "What If We Want To Build A Bible Club?")

The foundation of your ministry team must be that you abide in Christ together as a group. Abiding in Christ together, as explained in John 15, and being in ministry together, consists of the following things:

- We hang out together with Jesus
- We ask Him about the things on our campus that break His heart (and recognize them as needs that He wants to use us to meet)
- We listen to Him
- We support one another and keep each other accountable as we live out the life Christ has called us to

.....

\* 1 Cor. 12:12,25-26  
The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

\* John 17:13-19  
I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of My joy within them. I have given them Your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify Myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

### THINK

*"There's a saying in natural health circles that I've found to be quite helpful in understanding the integrated life of faith: "Don't say that your hand hurts, as if your hand were something separate from you. Rather, say that you hurt in your hand."...You cannot remove yourself from your hand and speak of it as another thing with a pain that is unrelated to the rest of your body. If there is pain in the hand, there is pain in the body, there is pain in you"*

**- Doug Pagitt, Reimagining Spiritual Formation: A Week in the Life of an Experimental Church**

This quote also applies to the body of Christ. We are all different parts of one body. If one part of the body hurts, the whole body hurts. We are called to be completely united, completely interconnected in Christ! If Steve is hurting in an area of his life, then Bobby and Sue shouldn't just say, "Gee, we're really sorry Steve. We'll pray for you" and then forget about Steve's pain. No, Bobby and Sue will hurt because Steve is hurting, and his burdens will be their burdens!

.....



# Abiding As A Team

## DISCUSS

How does the quote from Reimagining Spiritual Formation apply to your ministry team? What are the advantages of your team functioning this way?

How can your team begin to function like this?

.....

## INTERACT

Share with each other: one God-story or one struggle from the past month, and one prayer request that you have.

Pray for each other and make sure each person is prayed for at least once (for example, everyone pray for the person on their left).

Pray for your campus:

What are some specific needs that you see on your campus/in your ministry field?  
(What are the things that would break the Lord's heart?)

Who are some specific students/teachers/people that the Lord is laying on your heart?

Pray for direction in your ministry.

Pray for your team: that you will be truly united as Christ's body and in fellowship together (keeping each other accountable in your personal lives and in your ministries).

The exercises in the following section should also be done with your team. All of this is part of abiding together. All the things you do when you abide on your own can also be done when you are together...to deepen your relationships with each other in the Lord.

.....