

Apollos, Priscilla and Aquila
Acts 18:24-28

Based on the example of Apollos, Priscilla and Aquila ... *Christians are better together.*

You need to connect with Jesus and you need to connect with people.

Your best shot at living a deep, real, transformational life is to follow Jesus and be in community. The challenge in our culture is that everyone is busy AND real community is hard to find. What God is doing with the Church is He is building a new community. Not just different but totally new. The Church is a gospel community. If you go it alone and isolate yourself in the name of busyness, you simply cannot become what God has called you to be.

"I'm convinced that the influence a Church has on its community will be determined in large part not by the personality of the pastor, the size of its building or how long the ministry has worked in the community. It will be determined instead by the percentage of involvement in the ministry of each member. This marks the transition from attendance to ownership, from being consumers to contributors."
Doing Church As A Team, p35

You should notice from this passage that Priscilla and Aquila are not threatened by the skill of Apollos. They don't see him as competition for their territory. They see him as a brother in Christ who will be used by God as an ambassador for Christ. He's family to them. They want to help...but help do what?

We need to take this further lest we commit the same mistake as Apollos. The point of the passage is not comradery. *The point of the passage is gospel community.*

Christians are better together when they are a gospel community.

A gospel community cannot exist without gospel proclamation. Apollos needs to be more accurate in his preaching so that his listeners can be more accurate in how they relate to God.

Apollos is accurate about Jesus but he only takes it as far as John the Baptist. It looks like Apollos is emphasizing the arrival of Jesus as the Messiah. He needs to emphasize the cross and resurrection of Jesus as Messiah. Compare and contrast the message of Paul with the message of Apollos:

Paul: *I resolved to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*

Apollos: *I resolved to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and His arrival.*

The power in gospel proclamation is the death and resurrection of Jesus. Apollos has to be more than a good speaker. He needs to proclaim the gospel. There are things that Apollos just doesn't know. As good as he is, he needs to get better.

The difference is what the listeners are called to do. A gospel message calls people to turn away from sin and follow our Risen Lord Jesus Christ. This is the message that is powerful and life changing.

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow." 1 Corinthians 3:6

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read Acts 18:24-28. What thoughts or questions do you have when you reflect on this passage?
2. **Always, sometimes, never.**
Do you rejoice at the success of others?
Do you help other people succeed?
When other people do succeed with your help, is it okay for you to not get any credit?
3. Why is the Church more than a social club? What are some marks of a gospel community?
4. Do you have someone in your life that can act as a Priscilla and Aquila? How are you at giving and receiving feedback?
5. Can you think of an example of when someone spoke into your life in such a way that you were helped to live more like Jesus and/or love more like Jesus.