



Aquila & Priscilla

*They Make The Most
Out of Life.*

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Overview

Aquila and Priscilla make the most out of life.

Their story is told in Acts 18.

They are also mentioned in Romans 16:3-5; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19. 17 Some couples know how to make the most of life.

They complement each other, capitalize on each other's strengths, and form an effective team.

Their united efforts affect those around them. Aquila and Priscilla were such a couple. They are never mentioned separately in the Bible. In marriage and ministry, they were together.

Priscilla and Aquila met Paul in Corinth during his second missionary journey. They had just been expelled from Rome by Emperor Claudius's decree against Jews. Their home was as movable as the tents they made to support themselves. They opened their home to Paul, and he joined them in tent making.

He shared with them his wealth of spiritual wisdom. Priscilla and Aquila made the most of their spiritual education.

They listened carefully to sermons and evaluated what they heard. When they heard Apollos speak, they were impressed by his ability, but realized that his information was not complete. Instead of open confrontation, the couple quietly took Apollos home and shared with him what he needed to know.

Until then, Apollos had only John the Baptist's message about Christ. Priscilla and Aquila told him about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and the reality of God's indwelling Spirit. He continued to preach powerfully—but now with the full story. As for Priscilla and Aquila, they went on using their home as a warm place for training and worship.

Back in Rome years later, they hosted one of the house churches that developed. In an age when the focus is mostly on what happens between husband and wife,

Christians at Corinth

Acts 18:1-6

After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.

And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

Review of Paul at Corinth, with Aquila and Priscilla

Though Paul was entitled to support from the churches he planted, and from the people to whom he preached, yet he worked at his calling.

Many ministers today are working at a craft as well as preaching the gospel.

An honest trade, by which a man may get his bread, is not to be looked upon with contempt by any.

It was the custom of the Jews to bring up their children to some trade, though they gave them learning or estates.

Paul was careful to prevent prejudices, even the most unreasonable.

The love of Christ is the best bond of the saints; and the communing of the saints with each other, sweeten labour, contempt, and even persecution.

Most of the Jews persisted in contradicting the gospel of Christ, and blasphemed.

They would not believe themselves, and did all they could to keep others from believing.

Paul hereupon left them. He did not give over his work; for though Israel be not gathered, Christ and his gospel shall be glorious.

The Jews could not complain, for they had the first offer. When some oppose the gospel, we must turn to others.

Grief that many persist in unbelief should not prevent gratitude for the conversion of some to Christ.

Paul takes Priscilla and Aquila with him.

Acts 18:18-26

And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.

And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not; but bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch. And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

Paul does not preach contrary to the law.

Paul was about to show that he did not teach men to worship God contrary to law; but the judge would not allow the Jews to complain to him of what was not within his office.

It was right in Gallio that he left the Jews to themselves in matters relating to their religion, but yet would not let them, under pretence of that, persecute another.

But it was wrong to speak slightly of a law and religion which he might have known to be of God, and which he ought to have acquainted himself with.

In what way God is to be worshipped, whether Jesus be the Messiah, and whether the gospel be a Divine revelation, are not questions of words and names, they are questions of vast importance.

Gallio spoke as if he boasted of his ignorance of the Scriptures, as if the law of God was beneath his notice.

Gallio cared for none of these things. If he cared not for the affronts of bad men, it was commendable; but if he concerned not himself for the abuses done to good men, his indifference was carried too far.

And those who see and hear of the sufferings of God's people, and have no feeling with them, or care for them, who do not pity and pray for them, are of the same spirit as Gallio, who cared for none of these things.

While Paul found he laboured not in vain, he continued labouring.

Our times are in God's hand; we purpose, but he disposes; therefore we must make all promises with submission to the will of God; not only if providence permits, but if God does not otherwise direct our motions.

A very good refreshment it is to a faithful minister, to have for a while the society of his brethren.

Disciples are compassed about with infirmity; ministers must do what they can to strengthen them, by directing them to Christ, who is their Strength.

Let us earnestly seek, in our several places, to promote the cause of Christ, forming plans that appear to us most proper, but relying on the Lord to bring them to pass if he sees good.

Apollos Teaches at Ephesus and in Achaia

Apollos taught in the gospel of Christ, as far as John's ministry would carry him, and no further. We cannot but think he had heard of Christ's death and resurrection, but he was not informed as to the mystery of them.

Though he had not the miraculous gifts of the Spirit, as the apostles, he made use of the gifts he had.

The dispensation of the Spirit, whatever the measure of it may be, is given to every man to profit withal.

He was a lively, affectionate preacher; fervent in spirit. He was full of zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of precious souls.

Here was a complete man of God, thoroughly furnished for his work. Aquila and Priscilla encouraged his ministry, by attendance upon it.

They did not despise Apollos themselves, or undervalue him to others; but considered the disadvantages he had laboured under. And having themselves got knowledge in the truths of the gospel by their long intercourse with Paul, they told what they knew to him.

Young scholars may gain a great deal by converse with older Christians.

Those who do believe through grace, yet still need help.

As long as they are in this world, there are remainders of unbelief, and something lacking in their faith to be perfected, and the work of faith to be fulfilled.

If the Jews were convinced that Jesus is Christ, even their own law would teach them to hear him. The business of ministers is to preach Christ. Not only to preach the truth, but to prove and defend it, with meekness, yet with power.

Friendship of Paul

Romans 16:1-4

Our sister Phoebe, a deacon in the church in Cenchrea, will be coming to see you soon. Receive her in the Lord, as one who is worthy of high honor.

Help her in every way you can, for she has helped many in their needs, including me.

Greet Priscilla and Aquila. They have been co-workers in my ministry for Christ Jesus.

In fact, they risked their lives for me. I am not the only one who is thankful to them; so are all the Gentile churches.

Review of Paul's friendship

Paul recommends Phebe to the Christians at Rome.

It becomes Christians to help one another in their affairs, especially strangers; we know not what help we may need ourselves.

Paul asks help for one that had been helpful to many; he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

Though the care of all the churches came upon him daily, yet he could remember many persons, and send salutations to each, with particular characters of them, and express concern for them.

Lest any should feel themselves hurt, as if Paul had forgotten them, he sends his remembrances to the rest, as brethren and saints, though not named.

Paul sends salutations to Aquila and Priscilla

2 Tim. 4:19-22

Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila and those living at the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus stayed at Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick at Miletus.

Hurry so you can get here before winter. Eubulus sends you greetings, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers and sisters.

May the Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all.

There is as much danger from false brethren, as from open enemies. It is dangerous having to do with those who would be enemies to such a man as Paul.

The Christians at Rome were forward to meet him, [Ac 28](#), but when there seemed to be a danger of suffering with him, then all forsook him.

God might justly be angry with them, but he prays God to forgive them. The apostle was delivered out of the mouth of the lion, that is, of Nero, or some of his judges.

If the Lord stands by us, he will strengthen us in difficulties and dangers, and his presence will more than supply every one's absence.

Friendly greetings and blessings

We need no more to make us happy, than to have the Lord Jesus Christ with our spirits; for in him all spiritual blessings are summed up.

It is the best prayer we can offer for our friends, that the Lord Jesus Christ may be with their spirits, to sanctify and save them, and at last to receive them to himself.

Many who believed as Paul, are now before the throne, giving glory to their Lord: may we be followers of them.

Life Application

Aquila and Priscilla are an example of what can happen through husband and wife.

Their effectiveness together speaks about their relationship with each other. Their hospitality opened the doorway of salvation to many.

The Christian home is still one of the best tools for spreading the gospel. Do guests find Christ in your home?

Key verses: “Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them” (Romans 16:3-4).

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Verse Concept: Matthew Henry’s Concept Bible Commentary.