

Teamwork

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I. Introduction

- A. When God has something he wants to do he uses more than one man.
- B. He may start with one man by the rarely ends with one man.
 - 1. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob formed a team.
 - 2. Moses and Joshua.
 - 3. Samuel needed help. (1 Samuel 10:26)
 - 4. Paul needed help. (Acts 20:4)
- C. A team is a number of persons working together for a common goal.
 - 1. A team is different from a hastily formed posse or even a group doing house to house visitation.
 - 2. In a team leadership is important.
 - 3. An orchestra needs direction from a leader.
 - 4. When we function according to our gifts we operate as a team.

II. Five elements identify a team:

- A. Common objectives
- B. Effective leader
- C. Agreed upon objectives
- D. Love among the members
- E. Division of labor

III. Advantages of a team.

- A. Protection. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
- B. Balance and cross training.
 - 1. We tend to balance each other out.
 - 2. No man is equipped to do everything.

C. Planning. (Proverbs 24:6)

1. Good executives have strong teams around him.
2. When the team critically analyzes a plan they gain ownership.

D. The power of agreement. (Matt 18:19-20; Leviticus 26:8)

1. People working together built the Tower of Babel. (Genesis 11:6)
2. Cooperation is powerful.

E. A team creates an atmosphere for the building of basics.

1. God left Hezekiah to himself to test and see what he's really like. (2 Chronicles 32:31)
2. God may even withdraw the sense of his presence to test us.

F. Leadership.

1. Leadership helps others to accomplish their objectives.
2. The team should help each other.

IV. Dangers of teams.

A. Thwarting individuality.

B. Inflexibility.

C. Exclusivism.

D. Overlooking one-on-one training.

E. The team becoming an end in itself instead of a means to accomplish a goal.

1. Training men is not the goal.
2. Winning people to Christ is the goal.

V. Qualities of leadership include several things.

A. Leadership is not domination (2 Corinthians 1:24), but leaders give joy to God's people. (1 Chronicles 14:2; Proverbs 12:25)

B. Leaders all get hurt. (Matthew 20:26-27; 1 Corinthians 9:19, 22)

C. Leaders need to be clear thinkers.

D. Leaders need to be men of confidence and faith.

1. Moses was a man of knowledge, a powerful speaker and man of action. (Acts 7:22)
2. In spite of this he still needed help.

E. Leaders need determination. (John 17:4; 2 Timothy 4:7)

F. Leaders need an appreciation for the gifts and abilities of the team members.

G. Leaders need to maintain a high level of morale.

1. Moral will help carry the team when things go wrong.
2. In WWII a company held out in a difficult position until word of a rescue unit reached them and then they believed they could hold out and not surrender.

H. A leader needs to be well informed.

1. Wise planning and common sense keeps abreast of the facts. (Proverbs 24:3-4)
2. Know the state of your flocks. (Proverbs 27:23-24)

I. Leaders must insure that members of the team can function individually and corporately.

1. The team in Acts was in the state of flux.
2. The teams formed in the Bible were not formed for training but for service and training took place in context of service.