

Teamwork in the Local Church

Lesson One: Christians Working and Worshipping Together as One.

Introduction: The Local Church is a Team Unit.

- A. The church is unmistakably a team unit of Christians working together as one toward the spiritual goals of God (**Eph. 4:15-16**).
 - 1. The church can rightly be called a *team* - a group of God's people organized for the special purposes of God.
- B. Unless Christians fully recognize and apply this spiritual truth; the local church will not achieve its full potential to fulfill the work God has given her to do.
 - 1. In the church, do you see yourself as a "team player" in the work that God has given the church to do? *Every* member has something to offer!
- C. Teamwork in the church is a wonderful blessing!
 - 1. Our effort to worship God in the assembly is greatly enriched when all are fully participating according to their ability and opportunity.
 - 2. The spiritual mission God has given the church (evangelism, edification, benevolence) is fulfilled when it is carried out as a *team*.
 - 3. How "good" and "pleasant" it is when every member unites together harmoniously as a team to accomplish the purposes of God! (**Ps. 133:1**).

I. The Spiritual Necessity of Teamwork.

- A. There is a distinct advantage of working together (**Eccl. 4:9-10**).
 - 1. The spiritual ties of brethren are *better* than the self-centered, solitary confinement of the recluse or introverted.
 - 2. Spiritual teamwork brings needed help, encouragement, and wisdom to an otherwise daunting and lonely journey.
- B. God in His wisdom arranged the local church because He knew we would *need* one another (**Eph. 4:11-13**).
 - 1. Christians need one another more than they realize! (**1 Cor. 12:20-28**).
 - 2. Like a team, members lean on one another and support each other providing needed strength and encouragement to cheer each other on.
- C. It is foolhardy for a Christian to think of "flying solo," to serve God alone.
 - 1. While it is possible to stand by yourself with the Lord by your side (**2 Tim 4:17**), no one should deliberately cut himself off from his brethren.
 - 2. It is a grave mistake for any Christian to live in isolation, separate from their brothers and sisters in Christ. "No Christian is an island."
 - 3. Remember, the church was *God's* idea, not man's; to assemble with God's people is a command and not an option we may refuse (**Heb 10:25**).

II. The Spiritual Success of Teamwork.

- A. Unified teamwork in the worship of God.
 - 1. From the beginning, the church had unity and "togetherness" in the worship of God (**Acts 2:42**).
 - 2. Prayer was often a special *collective* effort (e.g., **Acts 12:5**; cf. **Acts 4:23-24, 31; 12:5; 13:3; Eph. 6:19**).
 - 3. The Lord's Supper was shared together as one body (**1 Cor. 10:16-17**).

- a. Many members of the one body are *one with one another* since they partake with the same purpose, which is to remember Christ.
 - b. “Teamwork” is also seen by those who help direct the heart toward Christ through Scripture reading and prayer (**Mt. 26:26-28**).
4. Together, God’s people put forth a collective effort to worship God in song and encourage one another through singing (**Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16**).

B. Unified teamwork in fulfilling the work of God (**1 Cor. 3:6-9**).

1. Teamwork is essential for the purpose of saving souls; “*He who plants and he who waters are one*” (**1 Cor. 3:8; cf. Mark 6:7; Luke 10:1**).
2. “*The word of the Lord sounds forth*” from the church that understands how essential teamwork is for evangelism (**1 Thes. 1:8**).
3. The collective effort to raise support for the preaching of the gospel is also teamwork in action (**Phil. 4:15-18**).
4. Teamwork is also essential to work of edification or the building of Christians toward spiritual growth and maturity (**Eph. 4:16; cf. Col. 2:19**).
5. Teamwork is seen when Christians assemble for the expressed purpose to edify one another (**Heb. 10:24-25; cf. Acts 20:32; 1 Cor. 8:1b**).
6. The church works as a team when *all* things are done for edification (**1 Cor. 14:26**), each member using his talent toward that goal.
7. Teamwork is demonstrated by the effort to restoring the erring brother (**Mat. 18:15-16; cf. Gal. 6:1-2**), to help win that brother back to the Lord.
8. Teamwork is critical for *effective* (yet loving) “discipline” for the unruly member (**2 Thes. 3:14-15; cf. 1 Cor. 5:1-7**).
9. To make a *real* difference in the lives of those in need (needy saints), teamwork in benevolence is imperative (**1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 8:3-5**).

III. Every Christian is to Work for “God’s Team.”

A. Every member is needed; there is work that we *all* can do!

1. Every Christian has been called to work for the cause of Christ, yet “*the workers are few*” (**Mt. 9:36-38**); are you one of God’s workers?
2. Each Christian has a gift, a talent that is to be offered in the service to God, to the fulfillment of His purposes (**1 Pet. 4:10-11; cf. Rom. 12:4-8**).
3. Every member is to work for “God’s team” – strive to build up the church, actively involved in the *spiritual* mission given by God (**Ac. 9:31**).

B. Every person needs to be a part of something *greater than himself*; for the Christian that means being actively involved in God’s team in the local church!

1. The Christian is a part of something greater than himself meaning he serves *God’s* cause which is more important than himself (**Mat. 16:24-25**).
2. In Christ, we are designed or created to fulfill *God’s* purposes, to accomplish the good works of God according to His gospel (**Eph. 2:10**).
3. Being a part of God’s team gives life meaning and fulfillment as you *strive together* with your brethren for the faith of the gospel (**Phil. 1:27**).

Conclusion: You Christian Belong on God’s Team. Step Up to Stand Together with Your Brethren as One to Do the Work God Has Called His Church to do.