

## **Christian commitment towards teamwork message 2020**

Teamwork and unity is powerful. The world knows it, God designed it and He wants the church, His bride, to endorse it and use it more than anyone else. Anyone in the business world wants teamwork in their job environment because things get done so much easier that way. Last week we talked about Christian family togetherness and how it is essential for us all to sense it, feel it, and know it among ourselves. Another element that needs to go with that is teamwork-unity. That is what we want to touch on today.

### **Psalm 133 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> How good and pleasant it is  
when God's people live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup> It is like precious oil poured on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
running down on Aaron's beard,  
down on the collar of his robe.

<sup>3</sup> It is as if the dew of Hermon  
were falling on Mount Zion.  
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,  
even life forevermore.

**Being a successful team means working together.** And working together means getting the right people in the room, figuring out the problem or goals, and coming up with a solution that everyone has a stake in – that everyone can contribute to. Unity may come before or during the problem-solving process, but for a group to become a team, that unity has to happen. The success of a team depends on unity and common direction. And that unity and common direction comes from **intentional communication, building relationships, listening, sharing stories, and spending time together.** It's not easy work, but it's work that can't be ignored.

**Jon Samson** holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Azusa Pacific University, a M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Sociology from Texas Christian University.

In our world today, companies that don't make teamwork the way the company works, tend to become fragmented and where each person is gunning for personal enhancement and reward instead of the overall company accomplishments. You can see it in many places where

teamwork has been essential to the company meeting its goals. It is no different with the Lord Jesus Christ and His church.

Teamwork will not advance unless the reason for it, is real and bought into.

### **So why should teamwork be important for the Christian church?**

Jesus came to the earth on one mission, not many, not an obscure one. The mission was so that all humanity could be saved from sin and have a future of life forevermore. Every neighbour, every friend, every family member, everyone. He came to demonstrate the heart of love God has for the people He created and that they could be restored to Him after they had made a mess by buying into the lie that Satan had given them that they didn't need God as their Father. It required Jesus to come to the earth, invade/destroy Satan's works and thru Jesus, die for all humans so that they could be restored to Him and live a life pointed towards a glorious eternal future in Heaven with The Lord Jesus. If the human race would accept this gift, they would be restored and saved.

### Illustration

If you want to see an example of teamwork and unity you don't have to look farther than the water around us. If you take a canoe on the water and go down one of the rivers, when you need to turn, the person in the rear of the boat needs to act like a rudder using the j stroke, and turn their paddle so the boat will turn. The person in front must keep paddling forward to keep the boat moving. If the person in front does a j stroke then the boat will change direction and can frustrate the one in the rear. When there is a need for a sharp turn right away, both people can do this together by one paddling backwards and one forwards. There are other strokes for other purposes as well. Teamwork is absolutely necessary for canoeing.

### Teamwork means unity is happening

In the days of the early church, the Greek mythical Gods were presented as competing and waring at times with each other. The bible presented Jesus, the Holy Spirit and The Father as the true triune perfect unified and one God all together.

### **John 10:30**

I and the Father **are one.**"

Jesus told the Pharisees when they accused Him of casting demons out by the devil, that any kingdom divided against itself can not stand. It must be together working for common goals and to a committed end to survive.

### **Mark 3:22-27 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.”

<sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. <sup>27</sup> In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man’s house.

The picture Jesus gave His disciples was the model of the church.

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-20 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

<sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

Teamwork in the body means it is all doing something of value for the whole and for everyone’s benefit. This passage also precludes the fact that each part of Christ’s body, the church, can be a benefit to the whole.

Here in Corinthians 12 and 14, it talks about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how as a team we are to use them for the common good. He uses the picture of the human body as an example of how teamwork must work if

the human body is to be healthy and the same for health in the church. We all know that when our physical body is not healthy, problems come and it can get critical.

**“The successful company is not the one with the most brains, but the most brains acting in concert.” – Peter Drucker**

### **How is a godly team formed in the church?**

- You realize you can not do it alone-you are not an island to yourself
- Realize God requires it of us-we answer to God
- We don't allow what we say or do to hinder Christian growth in others
- We understand that God's character is the foundation and focus of teamwork-love and value in each of us

### **Matthew 18:6**

“If anyone causes **one** of these little **ones**—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

### **Matthew 18:10**

“See that you do not despise **one** of these little **ones**. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

God watches over the young in the faith and young in age. He expects us to do the same and to care about anyone who may be vulnerable in some area of their life.

### **How does a godly team operate?**

- You will need others to help you accomplish your part of the goal
- You do the work together-everyone does something
- You assume others will want to help you
- How we view other Christians' strengths, weaknesses, and their walk in Christ must always be towards strengthening them and allowing them to strengthen you.

### **1 Corinthians 1:10 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

## **Philippians 2:2 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Each believer has a benefit to be received from every other believer. Every believer has a strength they can be to every other believer. The young can benefit the older and older the younger.

## **What are the rules to create a godly team in the church?**

- No one puts down another
- No one thinks they are top dog-no pride
- To be greatest is to be servant of all
- No damaging words
- We are needed and every other believer is needed
- Understand everyone grows at a different rate

## **Mark 9:35**

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the **servant of all.**”

## **1 Peter 3:8 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

If all these things we just mentioned were convictions of our heart and life as the church of Jesus Christ, that would be an incredible, powerful church that God would pour His power into.

## **What is the goal of teamwork and unity?**

## **John 17:21-23 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one,<sup>(A)</sup> Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.<sup>(B)</sup> May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.<sup>(C)</sup> <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me,<sup>(D)</sup> that they may be one as we are one<sup>(E)</sup>— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me<sup>(E)</sup> and have loved them<sup>(G)</sup> even as you have loved me.

## **Ephesians 4:1-6 New International Version (NIV)**

**4** As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. **2** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

The goal is to have such unity that there is no way that the Devil can cause a rift or break in relationship between any of the believers. It is to make it impossible for the church to be hindered by Christians putting their own desires ahead of others and that everyone seeks to make God's goals their own.

Even on the Day of Pentecost, unity precluded the baptism of the Holy Spirit coming to the Christians as they waited on God. It is no mistake that unity and teamwork are very high on God's priority list for Him to be able to work thru His children to effectively get His goals accomplished.

Social distancing does not restrict teamwork and unity. Teamwork can be done at a distance, by phone, in prayer, and needs to be in Christ.

## **Conclusion**

The church must seek to function as a team and as a family as we talked about last week. Teamwork must be the way the church of believers works to meet the goals Jesus wants done. Ask God what He wants you to do as part of His Body. If we set ourselves or our personal selfish goals ahead of how Jesus wants it, we are not working as a team. Any one or anything placed in a higher priority than what Jesus wants for us to do and be, is destroying our commitment to teamwork/unity, and violating what Jesus wants. Jesus wants to bless His Church and see His will, not ours, accomplished. It will need Teamwork to happen. Is there something that is getting you to say yes to it, sooner than saying yes to letting your testimony of God's goodness to you, get out. Is there something we are letting get us annoyed so we don't want to work with others? Let's spend more time getting to know each other's stories, to understand each other more and to see what God is saying to each of us. Let's assess our lives and our priorities and place Jesus as the top priority and everything else below so that the church of Jesus can accomplish Jesus' goals and see His blessing pour into our lives and the church we serve. Amen.