

"**TEAM-WORK**, n. [team and work.] Work done by a team, as distinguished from personal labor."
-Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

7 Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun.

8 There is one *alone*, and *there is* not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet *is there* no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither *saith he*, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This *is* also vanity, yea, it *is* a sore travail.

9 Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up.

11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone*?

12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

If more than one person is involved, teamwork is required. Without teamwork the project will fail.

And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, **Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: Matthew 12:25**

If the members of a team do not work together, they are working against each other.

For who is not against us is for us. Mark 9:40

In geometry, I learned that the contrapositive of a true statement is also true. The contrapositive of this statement would be "He who is not for us is against us." Now, God makes exceptions to the "rules" that man discovers all of the time. But I don't think there is any exception here.

Teamwork requires communication. Here is an experiment for you to try. You will need: yourself, a partner, a divider, a table (like your kitchen table), 2 sets of five different flat shapes (you can cut these out of paper) (make sure each shape has a match in the other set). One person will be the constructor and the other will be the reconstructor. First place the divider between you and your partner so that you cannot see each other (or at least the other's table area). Each of you will get a set of shapes. The constructor will first create an interesting pattern out of his shapes. The constructor then must describe his pattern to the reconstructor. The reconstructor must try to match the constructor's pattern based on his description alone. The reconstructor may ask questions.

Communication is two-way. Even though there is a sender and a receiver, the receiver must give feedback.

Without this feedback, the sender won't know if he got his idea through correctly. Repeat the last experiment with a different pattern and this time don't let the reconstructor talk.

Not all but many disagreements are caused by poor communication. Sometimes it may be hard for someone to describe why they want to do something a certain way. Other times one person "hears" the other, but does not **try** to understand it. Not everybody sees everything. It is up to each person to describe their point of view on the situation.

Teamwork requires the dedication of **EVERYBODY** involved. If one quits, not only is the chain broken, but it can discourage the rest of the team.

A little leaven leavens all the lump. [Galatians 5:9](#)

If one team member falls, it is up to the rest of the team to help him up. If this does not happen, the team will fall apart one by one.

And Jesus answering said, *A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.* [Luke 10:30-37](#)

Every team needs a leader, whether he will be the leader permanently or temporarily. Without a leader nothing gets done. Until Moses came along, the Israelites stayed in Egypt. Joshua led the Israelites into the promised land. The leader's job is to keep things moving. The team should help the leader do this.

Finally, remember that God comes first. A team will fall apart without God. Always pray. Center everything around God.

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. [1 Corinthians 10:31](#)

And Jesus answered him, *The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love *his* neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

[Mark 12:29-33](#)

*Your friend,
Matthew Day*

p.s. This is the November Newsletter.