

Kingdom Dream Team – Building Team Ministry (Part I)

Victory Christian Fellowship International, Pastors Marvin and Angie Barham

In **Matthew 18:20** the Word of God gives us key principles to successfully fulfill any vision God gives us in His Kingdom. It says, “For where **two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**” The key principles we find here are:

1. It is a given that nothing is accomplished alone. There is no individual effort in the Kingdom of God that fulfills any purpose of God. For any of us to fulfill our Kingdom purpose and destiny, it will require us to do so with the cooperation of others and working in conjunction with their Kingdom purpose and destiny for the good of the Kingdom. Purpose and destiny is not about the individual, but about the Kingdom of God.
2. Second, everyone in the Kingdom of God must work together with others in the same Kingdom for the same purpose, same vision, seeking to accomplish the same objective. They must be gathered or working in relationship one with another. No division and strife, no competition, no guile. There must be a unified effort.
3. That which unifies them, motivates them, and that which they serve must be the name of Jesus. No personal agendas seeking personal recognition and the praises of men. No pride or arrogance. Just humility in service to He who suffered to redeem us to the honor of serving in His Kingdom.
4. Finally, the Spirit of it all must be Jesus. If He is not in it then it will not succeed. His Spirit will not contend with the spirit of selfish ambition.

I like to use the acronym “T.E.A.M.” (*Together Everyone Achieves More*). I have found that teams that fail, do so not for a lack of talent or even potential, but for a lack of communication, cooperation, and selfless commitment to one another. People on the team never possess the ability to see beyond themselves and their own individual accomplishments and faults.

Matthew 18:20 “Where two or three are gathered in my name...” The key is His name, not yours or mine. Too often in the Body of Christ “**Where two or three are gathered, there is conflict.**” You have probably heard the idiom that there is no “I” in team. This is true. However, there is a little “I” in Kingdom. To me, it is a reminder that I must decrease that He might increase. It means that I must submit to the authority of the King’s dominion.

I find that most people cannot serve as part of a team because of three obstacles in their life’s philosophy and attitude of achievement:

1. **Pride or a lack of humility.** (1 Peter 5:5 *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with **humility**: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*)
2. **Selfishness, childishness or immaturity.** (1 Corinthians 13:11 *When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away **childish things.***)
3. **Rebellion to authority, insubordination, or unwillingness to follow another.** They are unteachable and talk more than listen. (1 Samuel 15:23 *For **rebellion** is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. **Jeremiah 32:33** *And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and **teaching** them, yet they have not hearkened to **receive** instruction.*)*

In **Deuteronomy 32:30** the question is posed, “How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to FLIGHT” and the answer given, “except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?” Here again is a principle achievement in Kingdom proportion. One can accomplish something only by the name of the Lord, but better yet can two accomplish greater things and conquer the enemy with overwhelming victory when committed to the cause of the Lord’s glory.

In the Kingdom of God everything is done by principles of unity and eternal covenant such as in a marriage. In **Mark 10:9** God speaks of the unity of people for the purposes of His Kingdom increase, “What therefore **God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**” Again we find Kingdom principles of teamwork. God is the initiator of the union. Therefore, the union is for His purpose. He joins them and they are no longer two but one with God’s purpose as the common bond. Second, they nor anyone else, dare not be the ones to cause division of the team or the abortion of its Kingdom intent and goal.

This principle is reiterated in **1 Corinthians 1:10** “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all **speak the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions among you**; but that ye be perfectly **joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**” Here the principle of unity and the warning against division is not only reiterated, but other elements are introduced concerning the relationships and cooperation with others on the team. They involve how we speak, think, act, perceive and treat others on the team. They include:

1. Our communication one to another.
2. Our attitudes towards one another.
3. Our responses to one another.

Failure to communicate effectively and failure to communicate at all are both detrimental to the health and success of the team. To say nothing or to say something badly, is not productive for the benefit of the team and says something about the condition of the heart. Often, poor communication or the lack of communication reflects the attitude and perspective of one towards another. Many make excuses. However, I have found in my personal efforts to increase my communication development a very sound principle. Love never has a communication problem. (**Zechariah 8:17** *And let none of you **imagine** evil in **your hearts** against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.* **Ephesians 4:15** *But **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.* **1 Peter 3:10** *For he that will love life, and see good days, let him **refrain his tongue** from evil, and his lips that they **speak no guile.*** **Proverbs 15:1** *A soft answer **turneth away wrath**: but grievous words stir up anger.* **Ephesians 4:1-3** *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.)*

Ephesians 4:16 presents another aspect of the Kingdom Dream Team. “From whom **the whole** body fitly **joined together** and compacted by that which **every joint supplieth**, according to the effectual working in the **measure of every part**, maketh **increase** of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

The U.S. Army drills into its Officers leadership philosophy the idea of “**Mission First and People Always**”. This is true in the Kingdom of God. Each must put the Kingdom of God above personal accomplishment and well being. The Kingdom of God demands selfless sacrifice and all glory and honor be to God. It is to seek the high calling of Christ and obedience to God for that which is eternal rather than temporal. It is understood that God’s purpose is above my own and God’s purpose is people. The Kingdom of God is the mission and without people there is no mission. As such, God has created each of us with a purpose that is embedded in His Kingdom purpose. Each of our destinies depends on the destiny of another to fulfill God’s Kingdom purpose. None on my purpose, destiny, gifts, callings, abilities are any more significant, better, or more important than that of others on the team.

And finally look with me at **Ecclesiastes 4:12** “**And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.**”

In a team, each has the philosophy of trust and confidence in one another. Each knows they do not stand alone and that their teammate always has their back covered and always seeks the team’s and teammate’s best interest above that of their own. When one is weak another lifts them up and covers their shortcomings. There is a sense of camaraderie and sacred bond one with another.

Kingdom Dream Team – Building Team Ministry (Part I)

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1. Four key team building principles found Matthew 18:20:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

2. Acronym T.E.A.M. stands for: _____

3. Teams fail because they lack:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

4. Most people cannot serve on a team because of three obstacles in their life's philosophy and attitude of achievement:
 - a. _____ (I Peter 5:5)
 - b. _____ (1 Corin. 13:11)
 - c. _____
(I Sam. 15:23; Jer. 32:33)

5. Achievement in Kingdom proportion (Deut. 32:30) _____

6. In the Kingdom of God everything is accomplished by principles of _____ and _____. (Mark 10:9; I Corin. 1:10)

7. In I Corin. 1:10 elements are introduced concerning the relationships and cooperation with others on a team. They include:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

8. Lover never has a communication problem (Zech. 8:17; Eph. 4:15; 1 Peter 3:10; Eph. 4:1-3; Prov. 15:1)

9. (Eph. 4:16) _____ first, _____ always. Each must put the _____ of God above their _____ accomplishment and well being. The Kingdom of God demands _____ and all glory and honor to God. The _____ of God is the mission and without _____ there is no mission.

10. Each of our destinies depends on the destiny of _____ to fulfill God's Kingdom purpose.

11. In a team, each has the philosophy of _____ and _____ in one another. Each knows that they do not stand _____.

Kingdom Dream Team – Building Team Ministry (Part II)

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In his book *Developing Leaders Around You*, John Maxwell states that “being a part of a successful team can be one of the most rewarding experiences in life.”(Chapter 7, pg. 135)

The key to this rewarding experience, however, is not just wearing a jersey with the team’s name and logo on it but being an active, participating, contributing part of the team’s success. It is not just being on a team, but being on a successful team and knowing that your efforts and personal sacrifices were a contributing part.

What is a Team

So what is a team? It is more than just a group of people. There may be a group of people waiting at a bus stop but that does not make them a team. John Maxwell states that there are four key elements to the development of a successful team:

1. The group must have a ***common goal***.
2. There must be ***cooperation*** among the group.
3. There must be effective ***communication*** with each other.
4. There must be absolute ***commitment*** regardless of adversity.

It is one thing to put together a group of people and give them a common purpose. But the other three key elements only comes together when each member of the team begins to bring their maturity level to a place of fruitful increase to the goal of the team. In other words, each becomes a leader in their own right, respecting the leadership abilities of the others. “A good team is always greater than the sum of the parts, but teams of leaders increase their effectiveness exponentially.” (John Maxwell)

Caring for One Another

John 15:12 *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Romans 12:10* *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Ephesians 4:2* *With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;*

The first quality of a successful team is that each of the team members sincerely care for one another. This is the very foundation upon everything else is built. The Scripture calls this “brotherly love”. There are entire books of Scripture clearly describing this love. Jesus demonstrated it best. It is selfless, meek, humble, sacrificing, and giving. It is demonstrated in one’s heart, mind, attitude, actions, perception, and speech. It has been noted that throughout history “men and women have died for their country because of their love for their fellow man.”

There is a story of a soldier who was severely wounded and placed in a hospital. Upon learning of his unit’s redeployment he escaped from the hospital to rejoin his unit and be wounded again. When asked his motive his reply was, “when you work and live with people, you soon realize your survival depends on one another.”¹

“Team mates have to know they will look out for one another. When a team member cares about no one but himself, the whole team suffers.” (John Maxwell) This only comes through developing trust. This trust comes through a consistent and continual demonstration of respect for one another’s input, ideas, and contributions. It involves looking out for one another’s wellbeing in and out of the context of the church or ministry environment. It comes through guarding one another’s heart and seeking to edify and admonish one another to good works. It also comes through demonstrating to your teammates your commitment and faithfulness to do your part, your share, go above and beyond, and seek the benefit of the team above your own comfort and convenience.

It is like the story of the two men sitting at one end of a life boat doing nothing. As they watched the people on the other end of the boat furiously bailing water out, one looks at the other and says, “Thank God the hole isn’t in our end of the boat!”¹

The best way to avoid this is for each to sincerely work on building good, godly relationships with one another. They may have to spend time with members of the team they may not know very well and seek to find common interest in Christ and the Cause of Christ. It will require each to recognize and avoid the forming of cliques. John Maxwell states, "Teams that do not bond cannot build." Internally, it may mean that you go outside your immediate team and develop some relationship with someone from another sub-team to contribute to the enjoining of the corporate team as a whole.

Know what is important

Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

"All of the team's parts have a common goal and purpose. This quality is developed by making sure each team member knows what is important to the team." (John Maxwell) For example, to a football, baseball, or basketball team scoring is important. With an army winning the war would be important but vague. Each unit or element needs clearly defined objectives for which they focus to contribute to the overall success of the campaign. At the same time, a group may have a list of duties, but if they do not know how those duties work together to make a score it will not lead to success. It is like a basketball player who knows how to jump, dribble, pass and shoot but does not know how to use them in conjunction with others as part of a team. The team fails and so does he. "If he knew that dribbling was merely a tool used by a player so the team could score, then his attitude, actions, and effectiveness would change dramatically. If just one player on the team doesn't know what is important to the team. It makes him ineffective. And when he is in the game, it is impossible for the team to succeed." (John Maxwell) Each understands that the team fails or succeeds together. If there is a weakness in one the whole team is weak. The strength of one does not equate to a strong team. It is the strength of all that makes the team strong. **Ecclesiastes 4:12** *"And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*

Effectively communicating with one another

Proverbs 15:1 *A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.* **James 1:19**

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: 1 Corinthians 15:33 *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.* **Ephesians 4:29** *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

Without communication team members work against each other. Without effective communication there will be no open communication. Communication will cease where there is fear, intimidation, manipulation, dishonor, childishness, anger, sarcasm, harshness, rejection and mistrust. The team can try all kinds of new approaches and try to address everything from talents to new equipment. But if there is no real, useful, productive, and effective communication then their efforts are useless.¹

Bad communication on a team is like two basketball players fighting over the same ball to score a basket and never realizing they are on the same team. This is why often another team member shouts, "Same Team" and one of the two has to relinquish to the other for the good of the team. It is to communicate to one another what all is happening for the protection of the team's best interest.¹

"A positive atmosphere of positive communication must be established and encouraged on a daily basis. An environment where it is safe to offer suggestions or criticism without feeling threatened, freely trade information in the spirit of cooperation, and discuss ideas without being negatively criticized." (John Maxwell)

Growing together

The Kingdom of God teaches of the principles of reaping and sowing. It also teaches the principles of growing and bearing fruit. Living things grow and each seed produces fruit of its own. On a team, members must continually be growing and bearing good fruit together. They learn from each other; they learn together; they learn from their successes and failures. They learn from other's mistakes, and they share their lessons learned one with another. They work together towards short and long term objectives of which to reach the common goal and they view each as a learning process.

Team Fit

Ephesians 4:16 presents another aspect of the Kingdom Dream Team. *“From whom **the whole** body fitly joined together and compacted by that which **every joint supplieth**, according to the effectual working in the **measure of every part**, maketh **increase** of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”*

On a successful team the members “appreciate each other’s strengths and become aware of each other’s weaknesses.”¹ They do not exploit each other’s weaknesses but they look out for each other and help each other grow. “A good team fit requires an attitude of partnership. Every team member must respect the other players. They must desire to contribute to the team, and they must come to expect a contribution from every other person. Above all, they must learn to trust each other. It is trust that makes it possible for them to rely on one another. It allows them to make up for each other’s weaknesses instead of trying to exploit them. It enables one team member to say to the other, ‘You go ahead and do this task because you are better at it than I am,’ without shame or manipulation.” (John Maxwell)

The best interest of the team above individual rights

Romans 12:10 *Be kindly affectioned one to another with **brotherly** love; in honour **preferring** one another;*

With mutual trust each should grow to place the best interest of the team above their individual rights. There will have to be a surrender of self-will. There must be a willingness to deny selfishness. They must genuinely believe that the value of the team’s success is greater than the value of their individual interests. They must recognize that their personal success can only come in the success of the team.¹

“They recognize that individualism wins trophies, but teamwork wins pennants.” (John Maxwell)

Each one has a special role

1 Corinthians 12:15 *If the **foot** shall say, Because I am not the **hand**, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?*

The team is stronger when each member recognizes their different roles;¹ each member must willingly accept their role and not envy or despise the role of another. Philip Van Auken, in *The Well-Managed Ministry*, recognizes this as the *Niche Principle* and states, ‘People who occupy a special place on the team feel special and perform in a special way. Team niches humanize teamwork.’¹

John Maxwell states, “In an ideal situation, each person’s role is built on his or her greatest strengths. That way each person’s talents can be maximized. But it doesn’t always work exactly that way. Because the team’s success is what is most important, sometimes the team members must be flexible. All the team members take a role that fit the goals and needs of the organization as well as their own personal talents and abilities. When any role is not filled, the whole team suffers.” (John Maxwell)

It is like the story of the guy sitting on his porch one day. He looks out and sees two guys in a city truck. As they traveled down the highway they would stop and one would get out and dig a hole. Then they would wait a few minutes and the other would get out and fill the hole in and pat the dirt down. Then they would go a little farther and repeat the process. Finally, the farmer went and asked, “What in the world are you guys doing?” They replied, “We’re on the highway beautification project, and the guy who plants the trees is home sick today.”¹ Sometimes adjustments must be made to the team to make sure the job gets done. An effective team is willing and able to make such adjustments without breaking continuity of effort.

Effective teams have depth

“In sports, the bench may be the most misunderstood resource of the team. Many ‘starting’ players believe that they are important while the people on the bench are not. They believe they could do without them. Others who spend much of their time on the bench don’t recognize their own contribution.” (John Maxwell) As with an army in battle, it is only as good as its logistical support. You can have highly trained and motivated warriors, but if they do not have beans and bullets, if they cannot communicate, then they may win some battles but they will lose the war.

A good bench gives many important things to the team:

1. Depth
2. Flexibility
3. Sets the tone
4. Stamina

“If the team does not have good reserve players, it will not be able to go the distance. Having a pool of good players able to play different roles gives the team leader great flexibility in any situation.”¹ A variety of combinations of people, abilities, and talents will allow the organization to accomplish a diverse set of goals and objectives in diverse situations and opportunities.¹ “With depth, a team can handle a variety of situations and demands with grace and effectiveness.”¹ The team’s bench sets the tone for the whole team’s level of play because the team’s preparation depends on the bench. Team’s practice against each other, therefore, they are only as good as the challenges they face each practice.¹ “A good bench causes them to do their best all the time, to constantly improve.”¹ Finally, it provides a place for recovery and reconstitution of the team. It allows the whole team to carry the load and not just a select few.¹ The finest teamwork is thus demonstrated when “the willingness of one player to step up his level of play and go the extra mile for his teammate in a time of need.”¹

Know where the team stands

James 1:8 *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

“The ability to know where the team stands at every moment separates the great players from adequate players.”¹ It is important for each team member to know the strengths and weaknesses of not just individual team members but the team as a whole; to know where the climate of the team stands such as momentum, motivation, and focus. It is important to recognize distractions and where the team is relative to accomplishing its goal, and what it needs to do to overcome obstacles and achieve those goals. It is to know when to push and when to back off, when to work hard and when to play hard. It is to constantly be aware of where everyone on the team is and how they are doing.

John Maxwell states, “It is the ability to know what is happening within the organization, how the organization stands in reference to its goals, how it stacks up against the competition, how the different players are doing, and how much more they can give in order to get the team where it needs to go.”¹

Count the cost

Luke 14:28 *For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?*

“Success comes down to sacrifice – willingness to pay the price. Each member of the team must be willing to sacrifice time and energy to practice and preparation. He must be willing to be held accountable and responsible. He must be willing to sacrifice his own desires. He must be willing to give up part of himself for the team’s success. It all comes down to the desire and dedication of the individuals on the team.” (John Maxwell)

General Norman Schwarzkopf said, “You can have a correlation of forces, vast amounts of weaponry, and many other factors but unless the individual soldier on the ground has the will to win, strength of character to go into battle, believes in his just cause, and has the support of his country...all the rest is irrelevant.”¹

“Without each person’s conviction that the cause is worth the price, the battle will never be won, and the team will not succeed. There must be commitment. Teamwork for a worthwhile vision makes it possible for common people to attain uncommon results.” (John Maxwell)

¹ John Maxwell, *Developing the Leaders Around You*, 1995, Thomas Nelson Publishing, Nashville, TN

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1. The rewarding experience of being on a team is being on a _____ team and knowing that your _____ and personal _____ were a contributing part.
2. What is a team? It is more than a _____ of people. There are four key elements to the development of a successful team:
 - a. The group must have a _____.
 - b. There must be _____ among the group.
 - c. There must be effective _____ with each other.
 - d. There must be absolute _____ regardless of adversity.
3. These elements only come together when each member of the team begins to bring their _____ level to a place of _____ to the goal of the team.
4. (John 15:12) The first quality of successful team development is when each team member sincerely _____ for one another.
5. "Team mates have to know they will _____ for one another. When a team member cares about no one but _____, the whole team _____." (John Maxwell)
6. (Matt. 6:33) "All of the team's _____ have a common goal and purpose. This quality is developed by making sure each team member _____ what is _____ to the _____." (John Maxwell)
7. (Prov. 15:1; 1 Corin. 15:33; Eph. 4:29) Without _____ team members work _____ each other. "A _____ atmosphere of positive _____ must be established and encouraged on a _____ basis." (John Maxwell)
8. On a team members must continually be _____ and bearing good fruit _____.
9. (Eph. 4:16) On a successful team the members "_____ each other's _____ and become aware of each other's _____." They do not _____ other's weaknesses but they look out for each other and help each other _____. "A good team _____ requires an attitude of _____." (John Maxwell)
10. (Romans 12:10) With mutual _____, each team member should grow to place the best interest of the _____ above their individual _____. "They recognize that _____ wins trophies, but _____ wins pennants." (John Maxwell)
11. (1 Corin. 12:15) The team is stronger when each _____ recognizes their _____ roles. Each member must willingly _____ their role and not _____ or _____ the role of another.
12. Effective teams have _____. A good bench gives many important things to the team:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
13. (Luke 14:28) "Success comes down to _____ - willingness to pay the _____. Each member must be willing to sacrifice _____ and _____ to _____ and _____. He must be willing to be held _____ and _____."

Church is Teamwork: Kingdom Dream Team – Building Team Ministry (Part III)

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Ephesians 4:15-16 *15But **speaking the truth in love**, may **grow up into him in all things**, which is the head, even Christ: **16From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which **every joint supplieth**, according to the **effectual working** in the measure of every part, **maketh increase of the body** unto the edifying of itself in love.***

There is no church without teamwork. In **Ephesians 4:15-16** the apostle Paul is expressing to the church of Ephesus their great potential for being a thriving, increasing, productive and loving church. However, the church will miss its moment of growth if they fail to work together and each recognize that each joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, that which causes growth of the whole body. Paul points out that each member must do the thing for which they are best equipped and make sure that those joints (fellowship connections) continue to work properly.²

Paul also points out several key principles that develop a pattern for the church team to look like.

1. First, the team, joints, or fellowship connections must learn to continually **communicate** the truth (Jesus, the Word of God) in love. This means their motivation, attitudes, and speech all must operate out of the spirit of selfless love of Jesus Christ.
2. Second, each joint of the team must be **maturing in Christ** in all areas of their lives. Notice Paul uses the strong words “grow up”. This would offend most Christians thus illustrating Paul’s point. However, Paul is adamant that each member of the Body of Christ must grow in submission to the authority of Christ or the Word of Truth. This is where much of the church faces a hurdle. Not all joints want to respond favorably to Godly counsel and reproof. It is much easier to be offended and go somewhere you can blend in and not have someone actually in your business.
3. Third, Paul points out that each joint must be **giving something back**. Not just taking, but supplying something productive and healthy to the increase of the Body of Christ. Many want to come to a church corporation where they are simply the customer or consumer. “Don’t ask me to watch the nursery. I don’t even have children or like them.” This is a consumer mentality not a Kingdom Builder Team mentality. I have seen so many churches with great potential fail because the leadership and congregation never caught hold of the teamwork approach to Kingdom Building. There can be no church without teamwork. If the people do not get it then the upper leadership tries to do it all and burns out. The people then get discontented, ministries begin to dwindle and finally no one is left and the doors close. Each jointed member must give of not just their money but their time and energy. I have seen some church try to take the money and hire help. This doesn’t work either. Throwing money at a church where the people have no passion for the purpose is fruitless.
4. This brings me to Paul’s next principle. Increase comes to the whole body according to **each member’s measure of effectual work**. Christ does not just command us to give of ourselves to His church, but He asks for what work you give to be effective and producing a desired results. What is the King’s desired result in the Kingdom? That it bear increase of righteous fruit, of which it multiplies, or grows. He points out that the increase is relative to the measure of which you and I put into it. We put little effort and passion into it then it produces little result.

The church will increase in every generation if we the church practice these principles and teach them to our children. We must understand that in the Kingdom of God when the church grows and wins, you grow and win. When the church is healthy it means your families are healthier. The church team is only as healthy as the Home Team. If we teach our children that church is not really a priority in life, if “we just go there on Sunday, given there is not something more important that comes up” then we are thus teaching them that the Word of God is not really a priority. We are teaching them that we do not really need each other, that fellowship with likeminded, Biblical thinking, righteous living, God pleasing kind of people is not a priority.

Why is the church not relevant to the culture today? Because it is no longer relevant to God’s people. What will it take for the people of God to view the church as important to them and their families again? It will probably take the same thing that it took in Paul’s day – much persecution by the culture of which the people were so engulfed. I believe that when God’s people take hold of a Kingdom perspective of the Body of Christ, as Paul has clearly stated in Ephesians, then she will see the fulfillment of Ephesians 3:20-21.

Ephesians 3:20-21 *20*Now unto him that is able to do **exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21**Unto **him be glory in the church** by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Paul illustrates for us here that when the church works together, each member doing effectually whatever called to do for the good of the church, then Christ is able to do things greater than we could even imagine, we will see the power of God like never before, and the glory of God will be seen in all the world.

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Ephesians 4:15-16 *15* But **speaking the _____ in love, may _____ into him in all things, which is the _____, even Christ: 16** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which **every _____ supplieth, according to the _____ working in the measure of every part, maketh _____ of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**

1. The team, joints, fellowship connections must learn to continually _____ the truth (Jesus, the Word of God) in _____.
2. Each joint of the team must be _____ in _____ in all areas of their lives.
 - a. The Apostle Paul uses the strong words “_____.”
 - b. Each member of the Body of Christ must _____ in _____ to the authority of Christ or the Word of _____.
 - c. Not all joints want to respond _____ to Godly counsel and _____.
3. Each joint must be _____.
 - a. Not just _____, but supplying something _____ and _____ to the increase of the Body of Christ.
 - b. Each must have a Kingdom Team Builder mentality instead of a _____ mentality.
 - c. There can be no _____ without _____.
 - d. Each jointed member must give of not just their _____ but also of their _____ and _____.
4. Increase comes to the whole body according to each member’s _____ of _____.
 - a. What is the King’s desired result in the Kingdom ?

 - b. Kingdom increase is relative to the measure of which _____ and _____ put into it.
 - c. If we put little _____ and _____ into it then it produces _____ result.
 - d. The church will increase in every _____ if we the church _____ these principles and _____ them to our _____.
 - e. In the Kingdom of God when the _____ grows and wins _____ grow and win.
 - f. The church team is only as healthy as the _____ team.
 - g. Why is the church not relevant to the culture today? Because it is no longer _____ to _____ people.

Ephesians 3:20-21 *20* Now unto him that is able to do **exceeding abundantly _____ all that we ask or _____, according to the _____ that worketh in _____, 21** Unto **him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, _____ without end. Amen.**

When the church _____ together, each member doing effectually _____ called to do for the good of the _____, then Christ is able to do things greater than we could even _____, we will see the _____ of God like never before, and the glory of God will be seen in all the _____.

Victory Christian Fellowship International
Ministry Team Strategic Model

Team: Common Goal

Subordinate Teams – Common Goals

1. **Worship Team:** Help the people connect with God
 - a. ***Music Team*** – Connect with God and draw the people in with them through the tool of music.
 - b. ***Dance Team*** - Connect with God and draw the people in with them through the tool of music.
 - c. ***Children*** - Connect with God and draw the children in with them through the tool of dance or singing.
 - d. ***Media*** - Connect with God and draw the people in with them through the tool of audio/visual media.

2. **Children’s Ministry Team:** Impart Godly Wisdom; Disciple the Children in righteousness
 - a. ***Nursery Team*** – Impart righteousness through affection and emotional stimulation.
 - b. ***Elementary Youth Team*** – Impart righteousness through instruction on the appropriate level.
 - c. ***Junior Youth Team*** - Impart righteousness through instruction on the appropriate level.
 - d. ***Children’s Church Team*** - Impart righteousness through instruction on the appropriate level.
 - e. ***Children’s Dance or Choir Team*** - Connect with God and draw the children in with them through the tool of dance or singing.
 - f. ***Senior Youth Team*** – Impart righteousness through instruction on the appropriate level and demonstrated relationship.
 - g. ***Secret Keepers Team*** – Enrich mother daughter relationships and impart biblical concepts of modesty and purity.
 - h. ***A Life of Faith Girls Club Team*** - Enrich mother daughter relationships and impart biblical concepts of modesty and purity.
 - i. ***A Life of Honor Boys Club Team*** – Enrich father son relationships and impart biblical principles of character and integrity.

3. **Evangelism Team:** Share the Love of Christ
 - a. **Community Outreach Teams:** Bring Increase to the Kingdom of God; Win Souls
 - i. ***Benevolence Team*** – Meet people’s physical and spiritual needs
 - ii. ***Events Teams*** (School supplies, etc.) – Win them to the Church and to Christ
 - iii. ***Community Adoption Team*** – Demonstrate reformation
 - iv. ***Visitor Follow up Teams*** - Meet their emotional needs ; Win them to the Church and to Christ
 - v. ***Nursing Home Ministry Team*** – Meet their emotional and spiritual needs; Give them hope.
 - vi. ***Hospital Ministry Team*** – Give them life and healing.
 - vii. ***Intercessory Prayer Team*** – Administrate prayer group efforts; track and report prayer results

4. **Missions Teams:** Take the gospel to the nations. Apostolic Kingdom Building.

5. **Pastoral Team:** Equip the saints to do the work of the ministry
 - a. ***Offices of the Five-Fold Ministry Team***
 - b. ***Eldership Team*** – Attend to the spiritual needs of the congregation through prayer, counseling, instruction, correction, discipleship, administration of the gifts, etc.
 - c. ***Deacons*** – Meet the physical needs of the congregation through prayer, servant-hood, administration, and instruction.
 - d. ***Cell Group Leaders*** – Meet the spiritual and physical needs of the congregation through instruction, prayer, and referral to Eldership and Five-Fold Offices.
 - e. ***Church Administrative Staff*** – Meet the administrative needs of the church, its ministries, leadership, and congregation.