

# WORKING AS A TEAM

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*"The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (Gen 2:18 NIV)*

After God created man, he declared that it was not good for man to be alone, so he made a helper that was suitable for man – He created the woman. He did this for man to have a companion. Companionship is all about friendship, association, togetherness, and team work. God never intended that the man and the wife will be independent of each other. He wanted them to work as a team – as one and not two.

Today we find that many marriages are not what God meant it to be. Many live as if they don't understand the meaning of marriage and why they are married. This is so because many married for different reasons other than companionship and togetherness. When a man or woman marries for the wrong reason, there is every tendency that the marriage will go 'bananas'.

God made a helper that is suitable in order for them to work effectively as a team. If she is not suitable for him, quarrels will abound and the marriage will collapse. Team work therefore is very important for the success of every marriage. Team work will make the career, financial, material, educational and marital visions of the couple to be fulfilled. Without cooperation and team work, nothing works. Two parallel lines never meet, same way, a couple without team work will never see eye to eye on many issues that concern them.

If the man cannot make it alone, the wife therefore is a team mate to walk and work side by side with the husband to accomplish purpose. Your spouse is your other half. It is very important that couples understand this and make unity their first priority in their marriage. Your life is tied to the life of your spouse. Your success is tied to the success of your spouse. Your happiness is tied to the happiness of your spouse. What belongs to you belongs to your spouse – your children, money, property, honour and fame. You share your life together.

## HINDRANCES TO TEAM WORK

### 1. **Married for the wrong reason**

Those who married for the wrong reason will find it difficult to work as a team. When motive or intent is wrong, then, team work will be difficult. Some married for the money their spouse possessed. Some married to become the burden of their spouse – he takes responsibility of her welfare and that of her family. Some marry for looks – beauty and handsomeness is motivation and main focus and not compatibility. Some marry to have children – bearing children are their motivation and not necessarily love and suitability. Some marry to satisfy sexual desire. Some marry to have someone cook their meals – the woman is not really a wife in the true sense of the word, but a cook. Some marry because all their mates are getting married or have married even when they are not mature or ready for marriage.

Except a man marries for the right purpose – companionship and togetherness – team work will be practically impossible.

## **2. Selfishness and self-centeredness**

Selfishness and self-centeredness has eaten into many people even before they got married. Having been used to it for a long time, they find it difficult to adjust to the new life they have come into, and as a result, conflicts abound in the home. Self is the most destructive enemy of man. It is self that makes a man to close ears to warnings before disaster hits. It is self that turns a man into an enemy of God through rebellion. It is self that makes a spouse to refuse joint account. It is self that makes a man to hide things from his spouse. It is self that makes a married person to commit adultery. It is self that make people quarrel, curse, and fight and keep malice even in marriage. It is self that breaks up marriage.

Every man or woman married or intending to get married should deal with self and get rid of selfishness and self-centeredness if the marriage must work. If team work is to be, then self-centeredness must be killed. Look beyond yourself as far as your marriage, career, money are concerned. You are not single anymore. You have a family now. You are one with someone called your husband or wife. You should be thinking and talking of collective interest and not personal interest. Team work requires selflessness, work on it.

## **3. Lack of harmonization of vision and interest**

When effort is not made to explain and sell vision and interests to one's partner, there is every tendency that your spouse will not be carried along and may oppose you, and develop a nonchalant attitude towards your pursuits. People will only join and commit themselves to what they understand and believe is workable and achievable.

Some men and women do not share their interests and visions because they think their spouse will kill the idea or may not get the response they want. Working alone is not the vision of God concerning marriage. God did not design and create us to survive alone, but to work together as a team; hence, a "helper that is suitable for him". Open up to your spouse to understand you and your dreams and interests. Take time to patiently explain for understanding to be reached and cooperation gained.

Together you will make it. No one can support you the way your spouse who share your life with you can support you. No one can pray for you the way your spouse who prays with you daily can pray for you. No one can encourage you the way your spouse will encourage and motivate you to victory.

Harmonize your visions and interests for unity to exist. Make open what both of you have in your hearts and see how you can work together. Anyone's vision or interest that could jeopardize your marriage should be modified or scrapped. Career and money making should not be chosen at the expense of your marriage and family life. Family comes before career, success, fame and money. Think about it.

## **4. Lack of respect for each other**

Respect is something that is lacking in our modern world. In the bible days, women called their husbands lords, and the husbands honoured their wives by listening to them and treating them nicely. Today, women slap their husbands in the face because the laws of their land protect them from violence. They show disrespect, order their husbands around, insult and abuse them, violently attack them and in some cases,

dictate what happens in the home. Many women don't even want to marry anymore because they don't want to be under any man's authority.

Many men now live in fear, as a result behave like dummies in their own house because they don't want to be slapped, or arrested for acting out of provocation or self-defense. Some have no respect for the wives they married in countries where the laws of the land does not protect women much. They practically beat them up when they feel like, even for reasons that are no offences at all. It is not a sign of love to take advantage of the law and treat your partner in a way that is not right. What you know you will not take from another person, why do it to another? Have respect for your spouse.

Having respect for your spouse is the only way love will remain in your hearts for each other. Respect will make it possible for you to work as a team and achieve great things as a couple and family. Have respect for each other's views, desires, feelings, temperament, personality, calling, skills and training, contributions and service in the home, health conditions and achievements in life. Respect will enable both of you to plan and implement your plans for your family. Respect will enable you defend each other when the need arises. Respect will bind you together to the point that you can speak with one voice in the absence of your spouse.

### **HOW WIVES SHOULD RESPECT THEIR HUSBANDS**

**a. By honouring and esteeming them in private and in public.**

Do not say or do anything that will belittle your husband before outsiders. Speak good of your husband and honour him as your head.

*"A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones." (Prov 12:4 NIV)*

**b. By supporting (and not competing with) him.**

You are in his life to be a support and not to compete with him. Take time to read the entire story of the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31:10-31.

*"A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life." (Prov 31:10-12 NIV)*

**c. By physically responding to him.**

Few areas affirm a man as a man as does his wives sexual responsiveness to him. Spontaneous hugs and kisses or other demonstrations of affection, as well as love making, all do more than just give pleasure. These things reassure a man – they confirm him in his masculinity.

*"I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me. Come, my lover, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom- there I will give you my love." (Song 7:10-12 NIV)*

## **5. Husbands not treating their wives nicely**

Team work will be a reality when the wife is motivated by the husbands love, care and understanding.

*“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church- for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” (Eph 5:20-6:1NIV)*

Husbands must love their wives to motivate them to submit the more to them. Just as submission provokes love, so also love provokes submission. When a woman is greatly loved she will submit to the husband willingly, and this will enhance team work, which will in turn make the family to thrive and accomplish all their set goals.

## **6. Refusal to leave and cleave**

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” (Gen 2:24 NIV)*

Many people are so attached to their parents and ex-lovers that they find it difficult to concentrate on their marriage. In some cases, they seem not to have a mind of their own. They must consult with them on practically every issue. They report back to their family on almost everything. This is a sign of immaturity. Anyone involved in this kind of behaviour should desist from it right away.

Marriage is all about independence from your parents to start your own family. It is a public declaration that, “I have grown and I want to be responsible for my life from now on”. When there is no detachment, unity and team work becomes difficult in marriage. Because of this your spouse definitely will not be happy with you and will not see the need to give his or her all to the relationship. This definitely will motivate segregation and selfishness in the marriage.

If you don't want suspicion, jealousy and fights, keep away from every ex-lover. What is not good is not good no matter who is doing it. What you will not take from your spouse, don't do it to him or her. Be loyal and committed to your spouse.

**PURSUE UNITY IN YOUR HOME**

*“Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.” But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel--because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.” (Gen 11:1-9 NIV)*

*“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.’” (Matt 12:25 KJV)*

It takes unity to succeed in a family or any organization. Many marriages are falling apart because they are not united. Make every effort to achieve unity. It is my opinion that if you will look into the issues that have been raised in this write up and work with them, you will achieve unity and make your marriage work and succeed in all that you desire to achieve in life with your spouse standing side by side with you.

It will take more than wishes to make unity a reality. It will take more than prayer to make it work. It requires hard work with determination, humility and the diligent application of the principles of God revealed in this material to make unity a reality. You can make it. Work at it. Start now and never give up. Make team work with your spouse your goal and life.

## WORD OF WISDOM

- 1. Becoming like Christ takes away stress from marriage.**
- 2. Submission is the key to greater love.**
- 3. Freedom of sex expressions in marriage strengthens the bond of love and oneness.**
- 4. The term “my husband” and “my wife” is for only those who are legally married.**
- 5. Who to marry is not the most important thing to a single, but preparation to be marriageable.**
- 6. The weakness you fail to deal with now in your single life, will surface in your marriage, and may wreck your home.**
- 7. Love without sacrifice is, fake.**

- 8. Love without patience will not last.**
- 9. Troublesome mother-in laws are not devils, but have only failed to realize that their sons and daughters are no longer babies but independent adults.**
- 10. Your vision of your marriage determines the way you approach matters in your home.**