

WORKING WITH OTHERS

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Man was not designed to work alone on earth. God designed man to work in harmony with others for success in life to be gained. After God made Adam, he saw that it was not good for man to be alone, so he made Eve to keep him company and to assist him in this world. When Jesus Christ was on earth, he sent out disciples two by two. He never sent anyone out alone. This is so because it takes team work to succeed in any life endeavor.

Gen 2:18

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

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Mark 6:7

7 Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

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Luke 10:1

10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

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The scripture teaches that two are better than one.

Eccl 4:9-12

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: 10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

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Reasons are:

1. They will have a better return for their work.
2. Two can achieve more than one person.
3. When one falls, the other will help him up. Each person is an encouragement to the other, working together to achieve the same purpose.
4. They will keep each other warm in bed when it is cold.
5. They can defend themselves because they are two and not one. It is not easy to win over two people in a contest.

WHY WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM

1. Someone sees what you don't see.

2. Someone knows what you don't know.
3. Someone can do what you cannot do.
4. What is lacking in you is in another.
5. God did not store all knowledge in one person. We all know in parts

1 Cor 13:9

*9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part,
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6. We are not all gifted equally, and each person's gift differs from his neighbor's. Our gifts complement each other's gift. Each person is supposed to be a missing link in the chain. God made it so, so we will depend on one another and work as a team to succeed in our assignments.

Eph 4:11-13

11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

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1 Cor 12:4-11

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

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7. All things function according to the design of its manufacturer. We are not designed as men to work independently from others. God designed us to love and be loved; to seek companionship in others around us, especially those who appeal to us. This is the reason why there is a longing for relationship in man.
8. God is a Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God works as a team. He is three persons in one God. Man is made in the image of God. So we are designed to work with others.

Gen 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
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9. You need people to succeed.
10. You need somebody to watch your back. It takes others working with you to keep you from pitfalls of life and save you from the traps of the enemy.
11. You acquire new knowledge and skills while working with others.
12. The body of man functions effectively because all the different parts that make up the body of man work as a team with each playing its complementary role. The team work is such that no one can say this is the most important part of the human body. The same way we are to function without worrying on who is proclaimed the best and most important. All are equally important because all have their different functions and assignment

1 Cor 12:12-31

12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 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 cease to be part of the body. 17 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? 18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

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Rom 12:3-8

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

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BENEFITS OF WORKING TOGETHER

1. It enhances productivity.
2. It increases speed.
3. It boosts the morals of all involved in the team work – the knowledge that you are not alone encourages, motivates and strengthens the faith of all concerned in accomplishing the assignment.
4. You share the burden and problems of the assignment together.
5. You can defend each other from enemies and all that seek to stop you.
6. Your knowledge and experience will increase as you learn and work with your colleagues and team mates.
7. You will climb the ladder of success faster as you, together as a team share the reward of working as a team.
8. Success, honor, fame, wealth and promotions will be your portion.

WHAT WORKING WITH OTHERS INVOLVES

1. An understanding that it is better to work with others than to work alone, and that you achieve more working with others than working alone.
2. An understanding that man was not designed to work alone but with others.
3. It involves skill in your area of profession; otherwise you will have a lot of friction with your team mates.
4. An understanding of the fact that you are in partnership with someone or some people, and therefore you cannot afford to do things as if you are working alone.

5. Working with others involves team work. You can be many in an organization and yet not work independently. It is team work with no heroes.
6. It involves total commitment to the work and to one another.
 - When there is no personal relationship, then team work will be impossible.
 - It is the personal relationship that binds the team together.
 - Get to know one another, and be personally involved in each other's welfare.
 - At the same time, be committed to the work that brought you together.
7. Be enthusiastic about your work and team mates.
 - Love your work enough to be excited about it. Be so excited as to talk about it in a positive way.
 - Love your team mates enough to talk good about them.
 - Never speak evil of your team mate.
 - Don't gossip them or slander them.
 - Love them so much that working with them will be fun.
8. Pray for your team mates often for their well being and harmony to continue to exist amongst you. Pray for God's guidance in your work and for success in your assignment.
9. Humility and submission to your team leader and mates.
 - A leader is a leader not necessarily because he is better skilled than the rest of the team.
 - The fact that he or she is the leader, curtesy and even God demands that you submit to your leader.
 - There can be no two captains in one ship. You can't have two commanders for one battalion. There will be confusion and disorder.
 - The owners of businesses hire better trained, skilled and experienced men than them to run and manage their businesses.
 - That you are the leader does not mean you are better. So, be humble always and thank God for the honor and privilege to serve in that capacity. Accept advice, suggestions and corrections from your team mates. It will not make you to be less a leader than you are or meant to be.
 - Your submission to someone you think or know to be lower than you, do not take away anything from you. You will remain who you are and will be who you are meant to be. Don't let it trouble you. Just in humility submit to your leader and work with him or her to the best of your ability. Offer suggestions when and where necessary and God will bless you for it.
10. Guard your mind from evil and negative things that can pollute your mind about your team mates and work.
 - The Devil is a spoiler and confusionist. Don't let him build his nest on your head.
 - Keep your thoughts clean at all times.
 - Keep love afresh in your heart for your team mates. Battle every evil thought that wants to kill that love.

11. Offences will always come from your team mates. Since you or your colleagues are not yet perfect in conduct, it is wise that you give room for offence.
 - Expect it to happen from time to time; otherwise you will be shattered when they come for lack of adequate preparation for it.
 - Many do not want to work with others because they fear they would be wounded one way or the other. Don't be a loner because of this. It is the path of life.
 - That is why God commanded that we should forgive those who offend us. Forgiveness will not be necessary if there will be no offence.
 - Show maturity in this and work on yourself to handle such things.
 - No matter the shape and size of the offence you can handle it.

Col 3:13

13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

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Eph 4:29-32

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

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REASONS WHY TEAM WORK IS DIFFICULT

1. Wrong and evil imaginations or conclusions:
 - He (They) hate/dislike me.
 - Their laws are too many.
 - They are below my level.
 - I am not up to their level.
 - They are too unserious for my liking.
 - They don't seem to be converted. I doubt their conversion.
 - This people, if I work with them, they will kill my vision and make my spirit to sink.
 - They know too much.
 - As long as that girl/boy is there, I don't think I can work with them.
 - They are too proud.
 - They are too young/old for me.
2. The presence of envy and pride in the heart.
3. Lack of respect for each other and leadership.
4. Lack of love for each other.

5. Refusal to forgive when offended, especially when the offender did not ask for forgiveness.
6. Too conscious of one's talent, skill and gift to the point of looking down on others – a feeling of, "I am the best here", "Without me this group is dead", "If it is not me it won't work".
7. Lack of commitment to the assignment.
8. Unfaithfulness to time of meetings and responsibilities given.
9. Lack of financial commitment to the overall work of the team.
10. Maintaining camps within the team - party spirit.

TITBITS FOR WORKING TOGETHER

1. Be driven by love, vision and the desire to see the kingdom of God expand in relating and working with others.
2. You will not succeed in life unless you are connected to people.
3. Apart from God and your vision, the next thing is people who will help you succeed. Helpers (people) come before money.
4. If you are not accessible you cannot relate with others well enough to succeed with them.
5. Your dream is connected to people.
6. Just as others need what you contain, so you need what others contain.
7. Goals and dreams last longer than rejection, injury and pain. Therefore be willing to endure pain to create and enjoy an eternity of gain through working with others. Do not be scared of hurts, they won't kill you. Be motivated and driven by the assignment.
8. Fill your heart with love for your team mates. Let your heart reach to them in prayer daily to the Almighty God, and your relationship with them will be fantastic and richly rewarding.
9. Close your ears to gossips about your team mate's personal life and what people say they said.
10. Be willing to help your team mates recover from their weaknesses and failures, remembering that you too do fail at times, and is still pursuing perfection.
11. Keep your eyes on the assignment and not on the leadership position.
12. Do not be envious of another. Just play your part, and you will celebrate the success as a team. Knowing that your labor of love is not in vain, keep your hands on the plough and work with all your might until the work is done.

Eccl 9:10

10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

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1 Cor 15:58

58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

1. **Change brings progress and upliftment - It is inevitable if success must be attained. Change that which needs to be changed in your life, attitude and methodology.**
2. **Have a definite purpose in life, and pursue it with all your heart, and you will achieve it.**
3. **Fasting and Prayer will not set you free where truth and the application of truth will.**
4. **Prosperity does not answer to prayer, but to giving.**
5. **For every giving, there is a receiving.**
6. **There is a place of abundance for every man. Find yours.**
7. **Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit will bring you to the place of abundance.**
8. **Don't kill the dream - Execute it!**
9. **Don't play with that idea running through your mind it may be what God will use to change your world.**
10. **Procrastination is the thief of time. It is an enemy of progress. Kill it, before it kills your opportunity to make it.**
11. **Always act now!**
12. **Success is not by chance but by choice.**
13. **Tithing secures open heavens, and open heavens guarantees rain.**
14. **As rain is for fruitfulness so are ideas.**
15. **Every great achievement started as an idea. Every invention is a manifestation of an idea.**
16. **What the mind of man can conceive, it can achieve.**
17. **There is more hope for the open-minded than for the narrow minded.**
18. **Wisdom is for those who seek it.**
19. **You can if you believe you can.**
20. **Nothing is impossible for him that believes.**
21. **Faith is the antidote for failure.**
22. **Courage always overpowers discouragement. Have courage and challenge every challenge. And victory will be yours.**
23. **Confidence gives strength. Fear destroys and weakness.**
24. **Greatness is the heritage of the sons of God.**
25. **Hope never fails. It is a burden lifter, and an antidote to discouragement.**

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. **Your friends are your future.**

2. Sometimes, your family is bad company, keep company with those who will make your dreams come through.
3. "Bad company corrupts good character" (1 Cor. 15 : 33).
4. The one whom you follow you learn his ways.
5. Friendship is transference of spirits, moods, ideologies, philosophies, and character.
6. Friends create cover, enemies create change by exposing your weaknesses.
7. Your friend is one who talks not about your weaknesses but your dreams.
8. Let go off unrewarding friendships.
9. "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm" (Prov. 13 : 20).
10. Move with those who will contribute positively to the actualization of your life goals.

RENEWING THE MIND

1. The way you think determines the way you see. The way you see determines the way you act. The way you act determines your habit. And your habit determines your experience.
2. Small minds doubt God. Great minds believe God and his word.
3. Break loose from your negative mentality and you will shine like God meant you to shine.
4. Let not your mind be a cage and prison but a spring pad for your flight to glory.
5. As long as you see with the eyes of God, you will be what he wants you to be.
6. The thoughts of your mind will always influence, dominate and control you life.
7. Positive use of the mind brings happiness, good health, success, prosperity and long life.
8. Negative use of the mind brings sadness, depression, high blood pressure, sicknesses and diseases, failure, poverty and untimely death.
9. Happiness, joy, sorrow, pain and sadness are moods influenced and determined by your thoughts.
10. Your habits and character are all reflections of your thoughts.