

# Teamwork in the life of a Christian

The workplace

The family

The church

Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

(Eph 6:5-9)

Whatever you do, do your work  
heartily, as for the Lord rather than  
for men,  
(Col 3:23)

We see championship teams fail  
because one star wants it all.

The NBA  
The NFL

team sports where anger between  
teammates can cause a team to lose

Have you ever seen what happens to a world renowned quarterback when the guard or tackle misses his block.

Sometimes the sacks are awesome.

When you're on a team, you have to  
do your part. Even too many stars  
will cause the team to lose.

Just so, in the home everyone must do their part. It gets increasingly difficult in this present age when the desire for things has overcome the relationship God has given for the home.

However, there are times when it is necessary for the wife to work outside of the home. What happens to the division of labor in such instances?

A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay."

And she prevailed upon us.

(Act 16:14-15)



For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

(1Pe 3:5-6)

Sarah willingly submitted to Abraham,  
however, he was not her Master, but  
rather her husband.

Wives, be subject to your husbands,  
as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands,  
love your wives and do not be  
embittered against them.

(Col 3:18-19)

Wives, remember that your husbands were  
and are impressed by your beauty

(now the man's name was Nabal, and his  
wife's name was Abigail. And the woman was  
intelligent and beautiful in appearance, but  
the man was harsh and evil in his dealings,  
and he was a Calebite),  
(1Sa 25:3)

What would cause bitterness to  
spring up for either a husband or  
wife?

Sometimes, there are expectations  
by one partner that the other does  
not (and sometimes never did) share.

If hidden, these may fall under the  
term swindler -- see 1Co 5.11

The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife,  
and likewise also the wife to her husband.  
(1Co 7:3)

When the husband doesn't fulfill his duty to  
his wife first, there are going to be problems.  
They may not surface for awhile, but they're  
going to be there causing tension.

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as  
to the Lord.  
(Eph 5:22)

When a husband doesn't fulfill his duty to his wife, it's going to be extremely difficult for the wife to willingly submit. Underlying tensions are going to affect the relationship and the intensity of those problems will worsen as time goes by.

but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had closed her womb. Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. It happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she would provoke her; so she wept and would not eat. ... She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.

(1Sa 1:5-10)



What will happen in such situations?

Both husband and wife will be prone to anger and bitterness (which are sins) Gal 5.20 Eph 4.31

"If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."  
(Gen 4:7)

# Teamwork in the Church

But to each one is given the  
manifestation of the Spirit for the  
common good.

(1Co 12:7)

When we think about teamwork, there always has to be a coach who directs the team.

When someone doesn't follow the coaches' directions, the team invariably fails, not because the individuals are not superb players, but because they are playing for their glory and not the common good!

In the church of our Lord, the coach  
is also our Savior and the playbook is  
the Bible.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If  
anyone wishes to come after Me, he  
must deny himself, and take up his  
cross and follow Me.

(Mat 16:24)

But now God has placed the members,  
each one of them, in the body, just as He  
desired. If they were all one member,  
where would the body be? But now  
there are many members, but one body.  
And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I  
have no need of you"; or again the head  
to the feet, "I have no need of you."

(1Co 12:18-21)

In fact, when you look at teams, you often find that someone who is not a team player actually hurts the team.

Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

(Tit 3:10-11)

As Christians, wives are to put up  
with unkind and uncaring husbands,  
within certain limits.

And a woman who has an  
unbelieving husband, and he  
consents to live with her, she must  
not send her husband away.

(1Co 7:13)

Remember, when a team doesn't have the same goals, it's going to fall apart. There will be lots of blame to go around, but the team will still fail to meet its goal.



Have you ever thought about what  
can happen when Christians fail to  
work together in the church?

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

(Php 4:2-3)

What happens when everyone  
shares equally in the goal?

"When those hired first came, they thought that they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. "When they received it, they grumbled at the landowner, saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.' "But he answered and said to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? 'Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. 'Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?'

(Mat 20:10-15)

What happens when there are  
members who do not fulfill their  
responsibility?

answer, 'Lord, when did we see You  
hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or  
naked, or sick, or in prison, and did  
not take care of You?' "Then He will  
answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to  
the extent that you did not do it to  
one of the least of these, you did not  
do it to Me.' "These will go away into  
eternal punishment, but the  
righteous into eternal life."

(Mat 25:44-46)

Are you working for the Lord's church just as you work in the home or in your employment?

Do you share the common goals of advancing each?

Have you considered these questions carefully to know that the Lord thinks you have done well?

'Now why do you delay? Get up  
and be baptized, and wash away  
your sins, calling on His name.'  
(Act 22:16)