

SUMMARY

Teamwork and Unity

A good spiritual leader looks at the overall picture and asks, “How can my leadership skills or department be used to promote the overall effectiveness and outreach to our community. Sometimes conveying this picture may be difficult. I heard a minister say one time, “it’s hard to share your 8x10 vision with a 5x7 mind. The challenge with so many leaders is to be creative enough to communicate in an effective way so that your members will embrace change.

As a leader, we must understand that some people really struggle with change. They just don’t like it! We need to be creative enough to change their negative attitude but at the same time not be negatively influenced to discourage us to get side tracked from our original vision or from doing God’s will. I had a lady in our church one time that constantly complained about everything. She complained about this and that and was constantly a thorn in the flesh. The church was contemplating moving to a better location. She was one of the main ones against the move, even after the church agreed to move. One day she came up to me and started complaining about the move and I said to her, “We are going to miss you.” And I walked off. You could have heard a pin drop but that lady moved with us and never complained again. In fact she was one of our best supporters. I won her by being creative and not giving into her wishes for the sake of *moving forward*. At first, she was more interested in getting her way instead of allowing God getting His Way.

Teamwork

We are all a part of a team. Our success depends upon each one of us to deliver “our part”. Our efforts should be done collectively, not trying to achieve individual statistics or honor but making sure the whole team wins. We are in a race towards heaven and we want to take as many people along with us. We can only do that if we work as a team.

Many pastors find in comparing their church to others, they notice that some churches seem to have more unity, purpose, and direction, along with effective leaders to be persistent enough to see things through. Everyone should be going in the same direction, all for the glory of God. While individual honors are appreciated, the whole purpose should be focused upon Him.

Teamwork also shows unity. It is imperative for the church to be united in all they do. Their success depends upon this. The Bible shares that we are all members in one body, all having a distinct purpose and function, not jealous of one another, but working in unity.

1Corinthians 12:12-27 says, *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular”*.

Matthew 5:29 & 30 talks about removing a particular part of our body (member) if it offends them for the sake of not having the whole body be cast into Hell. I am not implying that a leader tries to “kick” people out of church but we need to have people on the team that will work as a team member, in unity, for the sake of having the whole body (church) win. Sports teams will not play those who “sabotage” the chance of winning. They are placed on the bench as spectators until they have a renewed mind to do what is expected.

A good leader will have discernment enough to observe and screen people who will collectively work together for the same purpose. All others are merely spectators until they “catch the vision” of what God really wants the church to do. They are loved just like everyone else, not treated any differently, but may not be spiritually mature enough to participate in leadership or decision making positions.

In closing, the leader is one who is able to coordinate, love, motivate, lead by example, and encourage others to work as a team. One of our statements made at Pastoral Care, Inc. when dealing with pastors, churches, and denominations is that “Individually, we can do little or nothing but together we can make a difference”. Leaders are merely individuals but when they are joined by others who are willing, teachable, and available to be used for the glory of God for His purpose, it then becomes a team.

May God bless you and our prayer is that this outline will be a blessing to you and your church. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact Pastoral Care, Inc. at www.pastoralcarenc.com.