

HOW TO BE A GOOD TEAM MEMBER

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I. Introduction

How do we think about being a team member in a church in a way that serves others and brings glory to God?

II. Be a part of the church before you're a part of your team.

- A. The Bible always links our contributions to the church with our connection to the church.
- B. Consider the metaphors God uses for the church:
 - 1. A **body** in 1 Cor. 12.
 - 2. A **building** in 1 Cor. 3.
 - 3. A **field**, also in 1 Cor. 3.
 - 4. A **household** in Galatians 6.
 - 5. A **family** in 1 Tim. 5.
 - 6. A **house** in Hebrews 3.
 - 7. A **temple** with living stones in 1 Peter 2.

III. Be aware you're part of a team.

- A. Be aware you need others.

"The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another." (1 Corinthians 12:21–25)

- B. Be aware others need you.

"If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?" (1 Corinthians 12:15–19)

“But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.” (1 Corinthians 12:18–20)

IV. Carry out your responsibilities diligently.

“The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.” (Proverbs 13:4)

“Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.” (Romans 12:11)

A. Respond to scheduling requests promptly.

B. Arrive prepared.

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3–4)

C. Aim to be on time.

1. Realize it's possible to be on time most of the time.
2. Plan to arrive early.
3. Plan for red lights.
4. Prepare the night before.
5. Sacrifice to be on time.
6. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to value others more, to serve like Christ.

D. Don't contribute to chaos. Stay focused.

E. Take an interest in others as you do your job.

V. Let your suggestions and questions be seasoned with grace. (Eph. 4:29)

A. Be clear, not confusing.

B. Be open handed, not demanding.

Love “does not insist on its own way.” (1 Cor. 13:5)

- C. Be grateful, not grumbling.

"For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness." (Psalm 84:10, ESV)

- D. Be generous, not judgmental.

"The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out." (Proverbs 20:5)

- E. Be agreeable, not angry.

"Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense." (Proverbs 19:11)

"A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention." (Proverbs 15:18)

VI. Pursue humility.

- A. Ask for feedback.

"Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning." (Proverbs 9:9)

- B. Graciously receive feedback you didn't ask for.

"A wicked man puts on a bold face, but the upright gives thought to his ways." (Proverbs 21:29)

- C. Practice encouragement.

"But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." (Hebrews 3:13)

Jealousy is wanting what someone else has. Envy is just hating that someone else is successful, or appreciated, or applauded, or praised.

"A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot." (Prov. 14:30)

- D. Practice gratitude.

"Thankfulness is a soil in which pride does not easily grow." Michael Ramsey

VII. Handle Transitions in a Godly Way

- A. When you choose to transition.
- B. When you're asked to transition.
 - 1. For gifting.
 - 2. For character.

"My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." (James 5:19–20)

VIII. Conclusion

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." (Hebrews 13:17)