

# LESSON 6 Teamwork

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Kim has continued to teach his class of boys. One Sunday on his way home after teaching his class he met his friend John. John noticed that Kim looked discouraged.

“How is it, Kim?” John asked.

“Not so good today,” replied Kim. “Only four boys came. Maybe I am not the right one to teach the class.”

“But Kim,” John said, “don’t give up. God’s Word is like a seed. If you keep planting it, there will be a harvest. Give it time. Water it with prayer and God will give the harvest.”

Kim smiled. “You came just at the right time, John. Thanks. You have been such an encouragement! I need to depend more on God.”

It was John’s turn to smile. He had felt for some time that God had given him the ministry of encouragement.

To hear Kim say what he did made him more certain. He was glad he could encourage Kim.

In this lesson we will learn why God gives different abilities to different people.

## ***The Plan***

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- A. Our Relationships
- B. Our Work Together
- C. Our Attitudes

## ***The Goals***

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1. Describe the relationships Christian workers should have with each other.
2. State why believers should work together.
3. Show what attitudes workers should have towards themselves and others.

### **A. OUR RELATIONSHIPS**

**Goal 1.** Describe the relationships Christian workers should have with each other.

A newborn baby needs the feeling of being close to his mother and those who love him. The same is true for the church family. When a newcomer enters our church, he or she should feel appreciated and cherished.

A family is the place where children grow and develop. The same is true in the family of believers, because believers develop when they are with other believers. It does not require a large group for this to happen. Matthew 18:20 tells us that when two or three are gathered, Jesus meets with them there. Where could a Christian worker get more help for ministry than to be with Jesus and His workers?

In the first church, believers made a practice of coming together often. They joined together in fellowship and shared each other's needs. They came from an unfriendly world and met for encouragement, then went out to witness and work.

Besides being members of the same family, workers in the body are partners. Partners share the same interests and

the same burdens. First Corinthians 3:9 indicates that we are partners working together for God.

Think of yourself as a partner with those in your church. You all share the same goal and work. To carry out that work, each person must cooperate. Each person is useful when he or she works together with the others. But for us to cooperate we need to have the right attitude. A pastor may have talents and be called by God, but if he cannot control his spirit he will fail as a leader.

God does not expect all to be able to do the same things. He does expect us to have the right spirit—the spirit of Christ.

## ***Application***

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**1** To cooperate a person must

- a)** work with others.
- b)** have many talents.
- c)** do his work alone.

**2** Match each example (left side) to the kind of relationship it represents (right side).

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|--------------|--|------------------------|
| ... <b>a</b> | Arthur and Bob work together in witnessing in their neighborhood.            | 1) Members of a family |
| ... <b>b</b> | As Bill meets with other believers, he grows as a Christian                  | 2) Partners in a task  |
| ... <b>c</b> | Jane feels loved and wanted by her brothers and sisters in the Lord.         |                        |
| ... <b>d</b> | Philip and Fred pray together about starting a Bible class for young people. |                        |



## B. OUR WORK TOGETHER

**Goal 2.** State why believers should work together.

If someone were to tie your wrists with a thin cord, you could give one jerk and snap the string. If there were more strings, however, it would not be so easy to break them. In the same way believers can do things together that they cannot do alone. The body is unbreakable when all work together.

In the Old Testament we read that Nehemiah wanted to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. He knew before he started that there would be enemies and that he could never succeed alone. Many different people worked—priests, a goldsmith, rulers, merchants, and even one who made perfume. A great work was done that could not have been done by one person. With the help of all the other Jews, the walls were rebuilt (Nehemiah 3).

As recorded in the New Testament, Jesus chose twelve disciples to be with Him (Mark 3:13–15). He also sent them out to minister two by two (Mark 6:7). We also read that in the first church the Holy Spirit directed certain people to work together (Acts 13:2).

This is God’s plan for the body. The work that cannot be done by one person can be done when many people work together. The pastor or the evangelist could not preach to all the world. Every believer must help carry the message of Jesus to others. Everyone has a place in building God’s kingdom; no one is left out. Some preach, some teach, some sing, all pray, and the work goes on. This is working together.

### *Application*

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- 3** Believers should work together because
- a)** the Holy Spirit guides and directs believers.
  - b)** some tasks can be done only if believers work together.
  - c)** those who work for the Lord have great joy and happiness.
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## C. OUR ATTITUDES

**Goal 3.** Show what attitudes workers should have towards themselves and others.

A saying in South America goes like this: One hand washes the other. First Corinthians 12:14–26 teaches a similar idea.

### *Application*

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**4** Read 1 Corinthians 12:14–26, and answer the following questions:

- a) How many parts are mentioned?
  - b) What can each part not say about itself?
  - c) What can each part not say about another part?
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In the verses above the apostle Paul is teaching about the body. Let us apply his teaching to workers in the church. One “part” might be a teacher. In the same church, another “part” might be a brother who greets people as they come into the church to worship. The one who greets people might think his work is not important to the church. Paul would say to him, “That does not keep you from being part of the church. Who would greet visitors at the door if you did not? The teacher has to be with his class. He cannot be at the door. The body needs you.”

God has set each one in the church. He made one to teach and another to lift burdens and make people feel welcome. He has set other kinds of workers in the church too. The church needs all of us. As you think about your work in the church and the work of the other believers, embrace Paul’s attitude and teaching.

Ephesians 5:29–30 says, “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.” The message is plain. No one hates his own body or any part of it. Neither should members in the church hate each other, for all are part of the same body.

Each of us should serve where God places us. If we have to be in the important place before we will do our work, God cannot use us. If we are willing to let God use anyone and place them as He sees fit, then we will see the church grow.

We should support one another by praying, sharing burdens, helping, loving, being concerned, being faithful to meet together, and giving thanks to God for one another. How wonderful is the ministry of the Christian worker!

## ***Application***

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**5** Suppose your friends do not understand what it means for workers to be part of the body. What they say is given below. Match each thing they say to the Bible reference that will help correct it.

**1)** 1 Corinthians 12:15

**2)** 1 Corinthians 12:18

**3)** 1 Corinthians 12:19

**4)** 1 Corinthians 12:21

- ... **a** I'll work in the church if I can have the position I choose.
- ... **b** Pastors are the only workers the church needs.
- ... **c** Since I have the gift of prophecy, I don't need to learn from those who are teachers.
- ... **d** I am not needed in the body because I am not an apostle or prophet.
- ... **e** Because I do not have the gift of teaching, I am not part of the body.
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## Check Your Answers

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- 3 b)** some tasks can be done only if believers work together.  
(Choices a) and b) are true, but don't give the reason.)
- 1 a)** work with others.
- 4 a)** Four: foot, hand, ear, eye. (Five if you count the sense of smell, verse 17, to be the nose.)
- b)** "I am not part of the body."  
**c)** "I don't need you."
- 2 a)** 2) Partners in a task  
**b)** 1) Members of a family  
**c)** 1) Members of a family  
**d)** 2) Partners in a task
- 5 a)** 2) 1 Corinthians 12:18  
**b)** 3) 1 Corinthians 12:19  
**c)** 4) 1 Corinthians 12:21  
**d)** 1) 1 Corinthians 12:15  
**e)** 1) 1 Corinthians 12:15

