



3 Beautiful LAWS of Teamwork

*"Blessings that come
with Teamwork"*

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Three Beautiful Laws of Teamwork

Time Magazine [asks](#) a probing question: “How do you get a bunch of individuals to combine into a single, selfless entity? How do you create buy-in, trust and cooperation?” It’s a question that sports teams, businesses, churches, and organizations have been trying to answer for centuries.

In His word, Jesus offers a striking answer to the question: become a body. God has already given us a living illustration of an organism that works in perfect cooperation, without selfless ends: the human body. Though each part of the body serves a different function and operates according to different rules, they all work together for the good of the whole. It’s astounding and brilliant engineering.

We often conceptualize our Christian duty in terms of negatives. Like a film negative in the days of non-digital cameras, our image of Christianity becomes a spooky, ghastly image. We focus on the prohibitions of God’s law, losing sight of the true beauty of the positive image that he is creating in us: the image of his Son.

Today, we’re going to discover the beauty of God’s vision of teamwork. As we understand our role as parts of Christ’s body, we will gain insight into the true loveliness of the unity he is creating among us.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, it was easy to focus on the negatives. Bickering on social media, fractured families, and struggling churches consumed our focus. But if we looked a little deeper, we could find stellar examples of teamwork that arose out of this crisis.

When I received my second COVID vaccine, I witnessed cooperation and coordination at its best. To facilitate the movement of the excessively long line, a registration person stood near the entrance to take my ID information and get me checked in. Closer to the building, another individual provided digital confirmation and directed me to the correct station. There, a nurse gave me the shot in less than sixty seconds.

While I waited on a bench, I noticed members of the fire department filling up the shots with the vaccine itself. One passed the capsule, another put it into containers, and a third took it to the nurse’s station. It was a beautiful effort of coordination. Without the cooperation of firemen, volunteers, and nurses, it would have been impossible to vaccinate such a high volume of people. They worked together to save people from this virus, embodying teamwork in action.

In our individualistic society, we often think of ourselves as powerful and independent. During the COVID crisis, however, many people began to realize that they were not as in-control as they thought they were. Alone, we couldn’t even get rid of the virus. But as we came together, we could make a difference to save others’ lives.

In the kingdom of God, we cannot accomplish God’s work on our own. But together, we can be a part of someone else’s journey. We can play an important role in saving others. However, two ugly opponents often mar the beauty of teamwork: pride and fear.

Pride. We assume we are the most important part of the team. We haughtily look down on those who are different. We want to run the show, telling the shepherd and leader what to do. We have our own agenda.

Fear. We assume our weaknesses are too great for God. We see only our failures, believing God can't use us for his purposes. The Spirit of Fear has the last word, convincing us that we can't fit in because we're too broken.

However, as we understand the three beautiful truths about teamwork, we will realize that these emotions have no place in our lives. We can lay down our defenses and join a thriving organism: Christ's body.

Beautiful Law # 1 : Every part of the body is important.

In our physical bodies, every organ has an important function. My own personal lack of appreciation says nothing about the organ's relative value to my daily lives and functioning. In other words, I may not consciously think about some of my body parts. But if that part were wounded or missing, I wouldn't be able to stop thinking about it!

The big toe seldom rates as one of our most valued companions. Yet [science](#) says that your big toe carries up to 60% of your body weight while you walk!

Similarly, the spleen, pancreas, and other unobtrusive organs seldom enter our gratitude journals. But an attack on the pancreas can be the quickest cause of death.

In the body of Christ, your role may not seem glamorous or exciting. Other Christians may fail to recognize your importance. But your role is nonetheless vital. We cannot excuse ourselves or others from Christ's body, feeling that we're a third wheel that's not truly necessary.

Weaker parts are still valuable to God. He commands us to honor the parts that seem less important. In the body of Christ, who are you tempted to look down on? Whom do you think is unnecessary and not needed? Those are the very people Christ calls you to honor. Someone who is very different from you may be filling an indispensable role in Christ's community.

1 Corinthians 12:20-25 says that in the church, there "are many parts, yet one body. 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 unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more representable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it."

Imagine what would happen if human body parts would begin talking to each other the way Christians sometimes do.

"You're so sensitive," the teeth would say to the tongue. "Why did you feel hurt when I was just doing my job to grind food? You shouldn't have been in my way. You never stay still. You're always on the move, jumping here and there, thinking you're so high and mighty."

“Well, you’re just a bunch of hard-hearted bones,” the tongue would retort. “You may think you’re important, but if it weren’t for me, you wouldn’t have anything to chew.”

In his book, *He Satisfies My Soul*, Paul Brand points out that a sensitive tongue works closely with the sharp and unyielding teeth. The delicacy of the eyes and the strength of the eye socket both add value to the body. A body with all the strong parts deleted would be a pile of shapeless skin, and a body with all the sensitive parts removed would resemble a turtle or an armadillo. Just as God values all the parts of the human body, he values each of our roles in the body of Christ.

God calls us to look at ourselves with the balanced perspective with which he views us. We don’t need to view ourselves with pride, thinking our contribution matters more than the next person’s. At the same time, we shouldn’t see ourselves with self-deprecation, believing we’re worthless. We each have an important job to do. Whether we feel weak or strong, we’re an honored member of Christ’s community.

You matter. God treasures you, and other people in the body of Christ value your contribution.

Your belonging in the body of Christ doesn’t depend on a feeling or felt sense of belonging. Instead, it’s a fact determined by the value Christ places on you.

You belong because Christ gave you a job to do.

We have a beautiful purpose and calling in the kingdom.

And we can’t do it without you.

Beautiful Law # 2 : Being part of a team adds value to your life.

Several years ago, my friend participated in a brutal marine corps training called “cold weather training.” The temperature had plummeted to below zero degrees, and the heat had been turned off. One of the marines began shaking, his body entering a dangerous state. Another marine quickly took action. Opening his coat, he wrapped his friend in an enormous bear hug, allowing his body heat to pass into his weakened friend. They literally warmed each other up.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 teaches the same truth: “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” ESV

In the spiritual life, as well as in the physical life, we keep each other alive. Teamwork makes our lives better in a very beautiful way.

During the COVID pandemic, mental health categories dropped across all demographics. However, [one group](#) of people increased in their mental well-being: those who regularly attended church. As we fellowship and worship, we are much better off when we leave than when we come. Proverbs 27:17 says, “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” ESV

Paul Brand shares a vivid illustration of the benefit of teamwork. He says that the cells of our body are “surrounded on all sides by friendly cells that share the same loyalty to the head and that live together in harmony. They never experience extremes of heat or cold, never become dried out or come into contact with poisons. They can afford to let down their guard, and they benefit by the exchange of fluids and nourishment with other cells around them, without a sense of competition...I think it is fair to point out the benefits of Christian community and of the living body of the family, both in the matter of defense and in the sharing of good food. Single cells are always preoccupied with defense. They are dominated by the sense of competition. Eat or be eaten. Be thick-skinned or perish. But in a body of cells, the life is shared.”

The body of Christ exists to make your life fuller and more complete by providing you with benefits you cannot find on your own. You are not alone. Seek out a church where you can grow alongside others and experience the beauty of teamwork.

Beautiful Law # 3 : Teamwork is Encouraging

In one of the darkest times of his life, the Apostle Paul penned these words:

Philippians 2:1-30 “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry 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. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.” ESV

Even though Paul was in jail, he experienced the encouragement of teamwork.

Have you ever been going through a tough time and felt a need for a companion? Perhaps you were struggling with an academic concept or skill. You may have had technology problems or work problems. Even more importantly, you may have experienced a difficult and heart-breaking season where friendship was vital. We’ve all gone through times when we need another’s help. During those times, it’s deeply encouraging to receive assistance from a friend.

But it’s not just receiving that encourages us. Ironically, giving to others can also provide fulfillment and joy. Today’s culture makes life all about me. But in reality, life is all about Him. When we live in Jesus’ love, sharing it with others, we gain true joy. The beauty of encouraging teamwork is this: serving others brings the best kind of fulfillment.

Romans 15:5-6 says, “May the God of endurance and **encouragement** grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” ESV

As we work together in the Kingdom of God, we’re part of the best team imaginable. We have the honor and responsibility to help save others, just like the vaccination team. Our purpose is clear, and our task is before us. We lift each other up as we work together to give others a shot at life—eternal life. We can guide people towards salvation and eternal happiness with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.