

HOW TO BE A TEAM PLAYER - BRETT MOUTON

I love the giraffe; it walks so serenely and has to walk in between bushes and all sorts of obstacles, but it has its head above the trees. I think sometimes we can move with our head bashing against trees and rocks, but actually what we need to have is the attitude of our hearts and minds above all the momentary trouble, like a giraffe, so that we can see better and more clearly.

I think if our attitudes are rocked, it's like a mist comes and we can't see things clearly.

In terms of the team player, I am going to spell out the word ATTITUDE. Our attitude is so important.

A - Be Aware.

Be self aware. Be aware of your strengths and weaknesses. Be aware of other people's strengths and weaknesses and circumstances. I think that goes a long way in terms of being a team player. Being self aware and being aware of others.

All are important in terms of a team. You want everybody to go through the finish line. Being honest with each other and loving one another, as well as forgiving quickly. If we harbour grudges and hold onto anger, bitternesses and frustrations it doesn't add to our team environment. We need to be honest with how we feel and talk to those around us one on one. Don't talk behind peoples back, don't fester a wound and be honest with each other in terms of task and of season and of ideas and thoughts. Don't be those who inundated each other with constant negative, that's not what it is all about.

If you have a genuine concern it would be great to go straight to the person.

Everyone is important on a team.

T - Timing.

You can have a good thing at a bad time and it's a bad thing.

Kids going to sleep - they go off to bed and then half an hour later I want to give you a hug. No, we've said goodnight. A hug is a good thing but it is now at the wrong time. Timing is important in terms of being a team player.

You can have good things but if its at a bad time its no a good thing.

T - Be thoughtful.

Be a person who is caring and kind. Thoughtful of others. Be discerning of the moment or moments. As leaders and as people in a team, be thoughtful and caring of one another - that goes a long long way. Be generous to one another.

I - Every individual is important.

I think everybody needs to respect one another. Respect each other's ideas, thoughts and opinions, they are important. Don't make someone the butt end of the joke all the time, that's just insensitive and silly. Your team won't benefit from that. Be the solution in terms of being respectful of people. Don't slander people off when they are not around there to defend themselves.

T - Task.

Be part of the solution. Get your head and mind involved in solutions, in terms of getting toward the goal of your team.

U - Understand your role.

Understand the role of the team. If you understand that you will be able to best serve the team.

There has been a slogan around our church environment for many years - "Loving God, loving people, making disciples of all nations."

We can understand what we are trying to achieve. All that we try and do under that umbrella is achieve that outcome.

Understanding what you need to achieve is important.

D - Be decisive.

Be committed. Decide you're in and go with it wholeheartedly. There is nothing more beautiful than having someone on your team, or you as a leader, being wholeheartedly committed and going for it. It changes your whole demeanor and attitude, family, those around you, if you are whole hearted and committed. People following you will see that and they will enjoy it and want to follow you. That's really important.

E - Expectations.

Don't have unrealistic expectations on each other or on yourself. You can have an unrealistic expectation on yourself. Be kind to yourself. One step at a time, upskill one at a time.

In terms of your team - don't have an unrealistic expectation on a team. I think people have unrealistic expectations for leaders and for individuals. We are all the unfinished product who under the grace of God, the sinners we are, are under the grace of God trying to achieve the extraordinary.

We need to remember that.

Don't judge each other, don't put an unrealistic spin on a church or on an individual.

I hope this has been helpful. If you are on a team or are a team leader, God bless you in all you trying to achieve. Be the person who is positive, optimistic and leaning towards the future. Keep relying on the Lord and going to Him. Like that giraffe, keep your head above the momentary things and keep lining up with the King of Kings.