

Relationship Skill #6: Team Success **(August 13, 2026)**

“On the next day, we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.” (Acts 21:8)

It is interesting to note that, despite being one of the strongest and most gifted ministers in the history of the Church, the Apostle Paul rarely served alone. He almost always had companions working in the context of a team where “every part does its share.” (Eph. 4:16)

However, as we all know, working with other people (even Christians) is not always easy. Here are some of the challenges of working as a team:

- Silos. There is a danger of seeing your task or department separate from the rest of the team. This leads to blame-shifting and a refusal to support the other departments. To avoid this mistake, we need to constantly remember that it is not a success if one person thrives while the entire team loses.
- Stars. Teams will fracture if single members of the team get treated like “stars” at the expense of the team. This does not mean that all people get treated equally...the janitor should not get paid the same as the president. But a high performer should never be elevated in importance above the rest of the team. And nobody is to be thrown under the bus.
- Tortured Genius. Jocko Willink used the phrase, “tortured genius,” to refer to those people who think or act like the rest of the team is holding them back. In this case, it is everybody else’s responsibility to improve so the world can see how awesome the genius is. Meanwhile, the team keeps losing.

Learning to think “we and us,” rather than “me or they,” is crucial to successful teams. For Christians, the question is, “How can I serve as we to declare Jesus to the world?”