

Talent Plus Relationships and Teamwork

"Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men."
Mark 2:3

Relationships Influence Your Talent

You can trace your successes and failures in life to your most significant relationships. Surround yourself with people who add value to you and encourage you, and your talent will go in a positive direction. Spend time with people who constantly drain you, pull you in the wrong direction or try to knock you down, and it will be almost impossible for your talent to reach its highest potential.

The Impact of Relationships

Almost all our sorrows can be traced to relationships with the wrong people and our joys to relationships with the right people. Relationships in our lives really do make or break us. They either lift us up or take us down. They add, or they subtract. They help to give us energy, or they take it away.

1. Some relationships take _____ us.

All relationships require some of our energy. Relationships don't cultivate and sustain themselves. You will certainly want to invest energy in your relationships with your spouse, family, co-workers and close friends. These relationships will also renew your energy. However, negative relationships will tend to drain you of energy all the time.

2. Some relationships _____ to us.

Some relationships energize, inspire and validate us. They clearly make us better. These relationships are with people who:

- Believe in your _____.
- Share your _____.
- Dry your _____.
- Give you _____.
- Comfort your _____.
- _____ to you.
- _____ with you.
- Show you a _____ way.
- _____ for you.
- Tell you the _____.
- _____ you.

3. Some relationships are _____ in our lives. They lift us to levels of effectiveness we never dreamed possible. They are truly difference makers in our lives.

Five Signs of a Solid Relationship:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Friendships are like bank accounts. You cannot continue to draw on them without making deposits. If either of you become permanently overdrawn, the relationship won't last. Solid relationships must be beneficial to both parties. Each person has to put the other first, but both must have benefit. Relationships that continue to be one-sided will not remain solid.

If you desire to become a talent-plus person in the area of relationships – a person whose relationships influence him or her in a positive direction – then here are some important steps to take:

- Identify the most important people in your life, the people with whom you spend the most time and the people whose opinions you most value.
- Assess whether they are influencing you in the right direction.
- If your friends aren't really friends, make new friends.

Remember: Your relationships will define you. Choose wisely.

The Bible on Relationships

Proverbs, the book of wisdom, teaches about the strength of relationships:

1. Friends are _____ . (18:24)
2. Friends will not abandon you in _____ times. (17:17)
3. Friends will be available for _____ . (27:9)
4. Friends will speak the _____ to you. (27:6)
5. Friends will _____ you. (27:17)
6. Friends will be _____ to your feelings. (26:18-19)
7. Friends will _____ with you. (18:24)

Remember: In prosperity our friends know us; in adversity we know our friends.

Discussion: Who has been a pivotal person in your life? What has the person done for you and what has it meant? Consider how you could express your appreciation.

Teamwork Multiplies Your Talent

In his book, *The 17 Indispensable Laws of Teamwork*, John Maxwell states the number one law of teamwork, *The Law of Significance: One is too small a number to achieve greatness*. If you want to accomplish something really big that makes a major difference, then do it as part of a team. Teamwork not only

allows a person to do what he couldn't otherwise do; it also has a compounding effect on all he possesses – including his talent. If you believe one person is a work of God, then a group of talented people committed to working together is a work of art. Whatever your vision or desire, teamwork makes the *dream work*.

1. Teamwork divides the effort but _____ the effect.
2. Talent wins games, but _____ wins championships.
3. Teamwork is not about _____.
4. Great teams create a sense of _____.
5. Adding value to others adds _____ to you.

All talented people have a choice to make—do their own thing and get all the credit, or do the team thing and share the credit. Talented people accomplish more when working with others, but they are also more fulfilled than those who go it alone. John Hull, President and CEO of EQUIP said, “*Trying to accomplish a big task alone is the slowest of journeys and the blandest of journeys.*” If it is your desire to choose teamwork over solo effort, then do the following:

1. Accept the Law of Significance: One is too small a number to achieve _____.
2. Include a _____ in your dream.
3. _____ your team.
4. Give the _____ for success to the team.

If you can accomplish your dream alone, it probably isn't a God-given dream. A dream from God will also require a team...and require God's supernatural blessing.

Discussion: Why do you think teamwork is such a vital component of becoming a talent-plus person?

Biblical Case Study: Jesus and the Disciples (Mark 2:14-17)

Jesus recruited and mentored the most important team ever assembled. His team would launch His church on the journey to fulfill His Great Commission. He chose specific people for specific roles. In Mark 2, we read about how Jesus called Matthew, the tax collector, to His team. He seemed to be a very odd choice, but Jesus was never bound by human opinion. He saw more than present status; He saw future potential.

You must learn how to find team members with the highest potential to embrace the dream and help move the dream to reality. They need to possess the following qualities:

1. _____ – Are they hard working where they are?
2. _____ – Are they willing to invest their time and talent?
3. _____ – Are they action-oriented?
4. _____ – Are they willing to learn from others?
5. Hungry to _____ – Do they have a passion to grow?

Also in Mark 2 is the account of the four men who brought the paralytic to Jesus. The world is full of helpless people who need to be brought to Jesus. Four qualities comprise all teams committed to the fulfillment of God's redemptive dream for a lost world.

1. _____ - Jesus can meet the need of every lost person.
2. _____ - We love the lost because of His love in our hearts.
3. _____ - Wisdom insists that teamwork is the key to success.
4. _____ - We do not allow adversity to defeat us.

Thirteen Choices Made by a Talent-Plus Leader (A review)

1. Belief lifts my talent.
2. Passion energizes my talent.
3. Initiative activates my talent.
4. Focus directs my talent.
5. Preparation positions my talent.
6. Practice sharpens my talent.
7. Perseverance sustains my talent.
8. Courage tests my talent.
9. Teachability expands my talent.
10. Character protects my talent.
11. Responsibility strengthens my talent.
12. Relationships influence my talent.
13. Teamwork multiplies my talent.

Assessment and Application

Assessment:

Are you a good team player? Do your goals primarily benefit you? Do you place the success of your team/ ministry above your own success? If you think everything is about you, you will never be a good team player.

Application:

Are you adding value to people on your team? Think of three people on your team who you believe have high potential. Write out a plan for how you can invest in each of them.