

Teamwork:

The collaborative effort of two or more people to achieve a common goal.



A successful marriage requires teamwork. We must work together to accomplish God's purposes for us, to meet the challenges we will face, and to complete each day's tasks. A *collaborative* effort is required - the two of us working *together*. There must be a togetherness and unity as we work together with finances, parenting, household tasks, and everything else we have to do each and every day. Many years ago, Carmen and I didn't work as a team; we were at odds in virtually every area of life and life was difficult - marriage was difficult! The change began as we realized life and our marriage was not about us individually, but about us as a couple. We began using our differences rather than arguing about them and found that as we developed goals *together*, we could get a lot more accomplished.

We cannot work as a team if we are working for different goals and objectives; we must sit down as a couple and set goals and objectives in each area of life *together*. Perhaps get away for a day (or a few days) to seek God's will for your lives individually and as a couple. We have an article available on our website to help look at the future together as a couple and an article about setting goals as a couple. Teams look to the future *together*. Whether it is a sports team, a business team or any other type of team; common vision, mission, and goals are critical to the success of the team. It is even more critical in marriage that we have agreed upon vision, mission, and goals to help us work together toward those common goals.

Working *together as a team* has profoundly affected Carmen's and my marriage. Not only has it brought us closer together as a couple and improved our marriage, it has helped us grow in our walk with the Lord, made making major decisions easier, and helped keep us going in the same direction - *together*. It is so much easier to achieve our goals when we work *together*. Honestly, when we began setting goals in 1998, I didn't look forward to it - there was an element of fear because of the intimacy required to honestly share what I wanted to accomplish with my wife. Today, there is NO fear and I look forward to our anniversary next month and sharing, not only the joys of what the Lord has done this past year, but looking forward to what He will do next year and in the next season of our lives. The teamwork Carmen and I experience today is an incredible blessing to us and our marriage.

So, do you and your spouse have that teamwork? Do you work together as a team to accomplish God's purposes in your life and marriage? To meet the challenges you face in life? And to complete each day's tasks? If so, great! If not, you can! Use the resources referred to here to help you or seek help from a counselor to help get you started working together as a team.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Articles to check out:

Importance of Teamwork in Marriage by Adewale Ayeni-Bepo - overcomewithus.com

The Power of Teamwork in Marriage by Michelle Scharlop - marriagemissions.com