

## A Championship Team of Role Players

I love watching team-oriented basketball teams at their best. It is fun to watch games where the team is more important than individual statistics. A rebound and quick outlet pass results in a layup at the other end of the floor. To do this requires team members who know and execute their roles.

Here is one example of a national championship team, but you can easily think of other teams that fit this description.

The team had a very quick guard who could dribble the ball at breakneck speed and then deliver a pinpoint pass while on the dead run. Their other guard had a deadly shot from long range. Up front they had a center with relentless energy and strength. One of their forwards was tall and lanky, making him an excellent rebounder and imposing shot blocker. The other forward was a versatile player who could play inside or outside, and shoot with the best of them. He was a fan favorite because of his multiple abilities.



You could substitute the team of your choice and see the characteristics of each position that made each player a contributing member of the team. Some players brought shooting ability, while others played outstanding defense. Each person brought unique skills that, when combined with their teammates, contributed to an outstanding team.

On the other hand, if the team only had dribblers who would score the points? If the entire team consisted of rebounders without a shooting touch, how would the team score enough points to win the game? If each player understands their role the team can be successful, but if not, it would become a season of frustration and unfulfilled dreams.

In real life, we are all role players. We all have unique abilities that, when combined with other people, make for a winning team. What are your strengths? Are you good at bringing people together? Are you strong at serving others in a behind-the-scenes way, such as doing the preparation for a meeting or event? Because things go well you are practically unnoticed, but what a difference you made! Are you good at encouraging people when they need a friend? Are you the idea person who comes up with fun activities or a new program?

There are as many ways that people contribute to a successful event or organization as there are people. You get the picture – but, do you? How big of a picture do you see? Are you stepping out and sharing your unique skills or are you holding back. The answer to that question determines if you are on a championship team, or one that just plays the game but never reaches its potential.

The very well known passage from 1 Corinthians 12 talks about “one spirit but many gifts.” 1 Corinthians also is talking about your church, your place of business, an organization where you serve, and your family. No matter where you are you have the opportunity to use the gifts God has given you to combine with others for an unbeatable team. The success of your church, business, organization and family counts on everyone doing their part with their unique God-given abilities, and adding those parts together for a championship-caliber result.

God was generous in giving you the gifts and abilities. He placed you where you could make a difference in the lives of others. The gifts not only are skills but the opportunity to use them to help others. Share the gifts and abilities with others to accomplish so much more than you could ever do on your own.

**Scripture:** This is a longer scripture verse than most, but there are so many important nuggets to this that I have included the entire passage.

*The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up only one body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into Christ's body by one Spirit, and we have all received the same Spirit.*

*Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am only an ear and not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body? Suppose the whole body were an eye—then how would you hear? Or if your whole body were just one big ear, how could you smell anything?*

*But God made our bodies with many parts, and he has put each part just where he wants it. What a strange thing a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, “I don't need you.” The head can't say to the feet, “I don't need you.”*

*In fact, some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect from the eyes of others those parts that should not be seen, while other parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other equally. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.*

*Now all of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).*

**Question:** What role do you play that helps your organization, business or family to be effective? Do you hold back or freely give of yourself?

**Prayer:** Lord, we thank you for the many gifts and abilities you give us. Help us to freely use those gifts for the greater good. Amen.