

# Weekly WorkPlace Wisdom

A Weekly Service To The Business Community From Saddleback Church

## CREATING ENERGY THROUGH TEAMWORK

By Rick Warren

A revolution is taking place in American business. Across our nation companies are restructuring around *cross-functional teams*. Managers are capitalizing on a basic fact of human behavior: **People are more creative and more productive when they work together.**

Several thousand years ago, the Bible stated it this way:

**“Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better. If one falls, the other pulls him up; but if a man falls when he is alone, he’s in trouble.” (Eccl 4:9-10LB)**

However, just putting a group of people together does not make a team. They must *learn* how to relate to each other and work together. They must be trained in team-building skills. If you are part of a team at work, or if you’d like to increase the productivity of yourself and those you work with, I suggest you discuss and agree to practice these six **E.n.e.r.g.y. creating** principles.

**E mphasize** the best in each other. People blossom with affirmation. They wilt under criticism. Give more strokes than pokes. Every time you do, you increase the value of the team.

**N ever try to control each other.** There are many ways to play the control game: “Interrogator” – controlling through questions. “Intimidator” – controlling through anger. “Martyr”- controlling through guilt. “Aloof” – controlling through apathy/passivity.

**E ncourage the free flow of ideas.** Never try to create ideas and evaluate them at the same time – it will dry up the team creativity. Have fun! Value everyone’s opinion.

**R eplace competition with cooperation.** Get with the new decade! The competition is at another business – not in your office. Help every person and department to see the big picture so they’ll understand how their part helps the whole company.

**G ive away what you have...and watch it multiply!** This is a spiritual law that really works. Whatever you need more of...energy...ideas...authority...learn to share with others on your team. You will inevitably receive more back.

**Y ield the credit to others.** Remember, you’re a team!

*Until next week...*

### Discussion Questions:

1. Who is a role model that unselfishly and productively works as part of a team?
2. Which principle is least comfortable for you that you could practice this week?
3. Is there someone whom you may have offended that you need to confront?