

Teamwork

by Wayne Goff

The Kansas City Royals are the first team *ever* to win their first eight playoff games. The coach and players will tell you quickly that everyone is playing together as a **team**, and that nobody is looking for self-promotion above the team goal to **win**. Lorenzo Cain was selected as the most valuable player in the American League Championship Series, and yet he was one of many that could have been chosen. He played *sacrificially* in the final game of the ALCS.

Any organization — whether business, sports, or spiritual — must work together as a team, in order to succeed. Jesus said, *“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand”* (Matt. 12:25). This truth is obviously one reason why Jesus prayed for His disciples to be totally united in the same mind, spirit and judgment (Jn. 17:20-21).

The apostle Paul implored a divided local church at Corinth to become **completely unified**: *“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **all speak the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions among you**, but that you **be perfectly joined together** in the same mind and in the same judgment”* (1 Cor. 1:10). A house united cannot be destroyed!

A united team will work together, each member doing his part. In baseball, the pitcher does not play catcher, nor does the outfielder try to play the infield. Every player does his part, to the best of his ability, with the overall team in mind.

Likewise, for any local church to grow, develop and mature, each member must do his part: *“from whom **the whole body**, joined and knit together by what **every joint supplies**, according to the effective working by which **every part does its share**, causes **growth** of the body for the **edifying** of itself in love”* (Eph. 4:16).

It has been refreshing to watch these spiritual, eternal truths play out on a sports team. It is a good illustration of what we should be doing in the church. Will the Royals win the World Series? Perhaps, but win or lose, they will do it as a **team**.

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