Cooperation

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 & 12:5-6, Matthew 28:18-20, Ecclesiastes 4:9



How do members of a basketball team work together? Working together as a team is important in any team sport. James Naismith said it is even more important in basketball because there are only five players on the court at a time. He said all players need to work together all the time. If even one player doesn't cooperate with his team, they are less likely to achieve their goal of winning the game. **Why do teammates need to be able to depend on each other?** Each player helps the team in different ways. Players count on each other to do their part as they work together as one team.

> ***All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body.***
>
> 1 Corinthians 12:27



In today's verse, body means a group of people working together. A basketball team is a body. As a basketball player, you are part of a body—a group of people working together to play a basketball game. Each person has a different position on the team and works together to pass, shoot, score, and win. **What kind of body does our Bible verse talk about?** (the body of Christ) Christ followers are a body. If you believe in Jesus, you are part of the body of Christ—a group of people working together to serve God. God makes us all different so that together we can love and serve like Jesus. *1 Corinthians 12:5-6* When we love and serve like Jesus, we help people know and follow him. **Why does Jesus want people to know and follow him?** When we believe in Jesus and get to know him, we learn that we can trust him with our life. When we do, he saves us and gives us new life. We choose to follow his example and do what he tells us to do. Jesus said, *"Go and make followers of all people in the world…Teach them to obey everything that I have told you…You can be sure that I will be with you always." Matthew 28:19-20* **What does Jesus tell us to do?** Jesus tells us to go to all people and help them know and follow him. He tells us to teach them to do what Jesus says. **How do we know we can depend on Jesus to help?** Jesus promised he will be with us always.



Ecclesiastes 4:9 says, *"Two people are better than one. They get more done by working together."* **How can you work together to tell people about Jesus?**

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank you for making us a part of your team—the body of Christ. You have put us together to accomplish the goals you set out for us. Show us how we can serve you. Help us cooperate with each other so that all people can know your love. Amen.

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