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Stubbornness and Walking In Leadership Teams

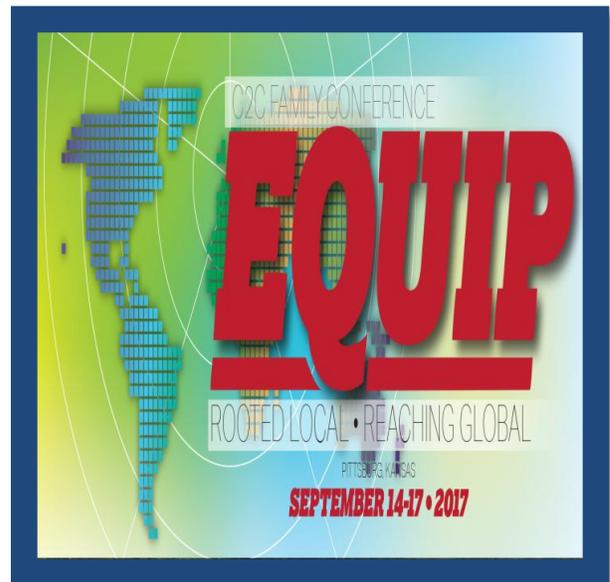
"I know he doesn't believe that. Why is he taking such a firm position? Why is he going so hard after a fellow team member? He isn't just attacking his position but attacking him!"

I was on a leadership team where this scenario was played out often. One of the key leaders could be described as "stubborn" and "hard headed." He would become so fixated on his position that it went way beyond holding firm to something God was showing him to what seemed to be a personal fight. The strange thing was that many times his stands were not even his own inner view, but a temporary view he adopted. His stubbornness was the problem as he was often being stubborn for stubborn's sake.

God's design for leadership in His house is a family team. This is who the Godhead is.

They have been a family team that has always led all creation. This was fully

evident as Jesus walked on the earth. He walked in "oneness" as a team with the Father and Holy Spirit. In His last prayer over the leadership team He assembled and trained together (the 12), He prayed 3 times that their leadership would have the same family team dynamic that the Godhead had, "that they would be one like We are one" (John 17:11-22).



This is why leadership teams suffer some of the greatest attacks of the enemy. He doesn't fear a one man superstar as much as he does a family team leading together because they most express the nature of the Godhead. The enemy will stir up an ungodly type of stubbornness in an attempt to derail leadership teams.

The right kind of stubbornness is good. It is tied to the Godly trait of fighting with perseverance. Paul tells Timothy "to fight" in the midst of a difficult church situation that he was trying to turn (1 Tim 1:18, 6:12). He told him to have the mentality of a good soldier (2 Tim 2:3,4). Leaders must be able to "contend for the faith" (Jud 1:3). They have to be able to "take their stand" in the midst of God's field without wavering (2 Sam 23:11-12).

**"Coming together is a beginning, and staying together is progress, but only when teams sweat together do they find success."
Maxwell**

The trait of "taking a stand" implies a degree of stubbornness that is good, but like any other healthy trait it can become bad if not governed by Holy Spirit.

Stubbornness is the ugly side of perseverance. If you are standing your ground for wrong reasons (wanting to be seen as right or having things done your way) stubbornness becomes a problem. It will cause the demise of leadership teams.

God's design for family team implies a degree of submission and yieldedness that stubbornness works against. How do you know that your stubbornness is becoming a problem among a team of leaders? Here are some considerations that indicate your stubbornness is a problem.

- **You hold to your point of view and refuse to admit or see any problems with it.**
- **You tend to do things, or like to do things even when no one else thinks they are right.**
- **You are quick to point out all the problems with others' ideas and not your own.**
- **You become quickly impatient and frustrated when trying to get others to see your ideas or perspective.**
- **You often feign half-hearted agreement with the team holding to your inner excuse that any other way besides yours is not completely right.**

Some helpful considerations to avoid the wrong kind of stubbornness

- **Listen to other's perspectives completely without attempting to shut them down.** It doesn't mean you will agree with everything they say, but you will gain their perspective. Remember that in a team if everyone thought and saw things the way you do then everyone else would be unnecessary. We need everyone's perspective to gain the breadth of the mind of God as we approach things.
- **Realize there are other options than the ones you see.** This approach helps you to explore all alternatives. Godly wisdom is defined as "the best application of knowledge." It is knowing the wide breadth of ideas then choosing the best one by the Spirit of God.
- **Be quick to admit when you are wrong.** Remember that the first ethic of the Kingdom, as Jesus taught it, was "blessed are the poor in spirit for they are in the Kingdom" Mt 5:3. Pride will always work against team.
- **Habitual stubbornness is often a clear indicator of pride.** Sometimes yielding to others' ideas will work valuable things in you. You tend to gain more in the long run in terms of credibility, character development, and team work rather than fighting for, and getting your own way.

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