

THE VALUE OF WORKING TOGETHER

Part of the family including myself went to the air show at Travis Air Force Base yesterday. We had a lot of fun and saw many interesting aerial shows but there was one that really stood out in my mind. There was a precision flying team from the Canadian Air Force called the "Snow Birds," they were without a doubt the high point of the show. Have you ever seen nine airplanes flying at about 300 mph in perfect formation execute a complete roll over? Their wings were no more than a few feet apart! If each one of the pilots does not do his job it could be disastrous for the whole team. But not only are the pilots important to this team but what of the men who maintain their aircraft? What if one of the maintenance people doesn't do their job? This would be just as disastrous to the team, would it not? I watched them closer and closer and noticed that even when they were not in close formation they were working as a team. There was no wasted motion; everything they did was done so the final outcome was what they had planned. When these men finished their routines and landed their airplanes they got out and congratulated each other. In front of the crowd there was no arguing or bickering just a united front. Now I am sure when they went in for the final briefing of the day they were able to look at the mistakes they had made so in the next show they could correct them. That is how a good team gets better. I have seen precision flying teams before, but I do not know that I have seen any that were any better than these men yesterday.

As I sat there watching this precision flying team, my mind was constantly thinking of the church. Is the church not a team, a precision team? Paul describes our relationship in the church as that of a body (1 Cor. 12:12-27). Isn't our body a precision team of separate parts working together for the common good? That is how the local church is to work. We are all parts of one another and we are not independent of one another. The church at the local level can only survive if it works together as a team. In a team there are no unimportant parts. Every individual must do their part or something will be missing. One part is not more important than any other part either. All parts must do their job for the final outcome to be what God has planned for the church. Jesus said He was going to build His church (Matt. 16:18) so when we see that design in the New Testament for man to build it any other way would be wrong. We must work together in unity of purpose to build it as our Lord designed it. And I believe that those in the world will not flock to the church until they see in us the purpose of unity and love found in the N.T. scriptures. When we show the world our faith and resolve, our love for one another, then we will begin to see them at our doors.