

## ***The Band, Working Together As A Team***

*David Wayne Lawrence*

**Vision and purpose.** I believe that it is very important that each band member understands his **place and purpose in the band**. The most effective bands are those who know their strengths and weaknesses, and function primarily in the areas of their strengths. As each member functions in his strength, yet not neglecting to develop his weaknesses, he will flow well in the area he is placed.

It is ultimately the responsibility of the BAND DIRECTOR/MINISTER OF MUSIC/WORSHIP LEADER or whoever is in charge of the musicians to communicate the purpose for each musician. The leader must **clearly define the boundaries** of each position. Those musicians who can not attain the desired level of ability need to take time out from the band and get the training necessary to allow them to minister on the level of performance of the others. On the other hand, those musicians who seem to consistently move beyond the boundaries set by the Leader should be warned and, if necessary, dismissed from the band. These type of musicians only bring envy, jealousy, pride and strife into the band.

**Vision** of how all of the parts flow together is the other important factor that needs to be communicated by the Leader. Without a vision there will be chaos and showboating. As a Leader, you may have to present musical renditions of other bands doing the styles that are appropriate for your ministry. If at all possible, take the band members to live concerts or other services where the band is playing the way you would like to see your group come together. **THERE MUST BE A VISION OR GOAL SET BEFORE THEM.**

Just to give you an example of the most common situation:

1. The percussive sounding keyboard is the foundational lead sound, any additional keyboards should have a more smooth legato sound and flow.
2. The drummer should be tightly in sync with the lead keyboard, focusing on the style and breaks and tempos of each song.
3. The bass guitar has the important task of playing the proper foundational bass notes to the chords played by the lead keyboard, along with coinciding with the rhythm of the kick drum, which provides the avenue for nice fill-in licks. He should try to stay away from playing the melody.
4. The lead and rhythm guitars should then give rhythmic foundations and fill in the holes left by the keyboards. Solos should only be done when there is **no singing**. If you have a situation where the guitar is the LEAD INSTRUMENT, then the keyboards will all be of a more mellow flow behind it.
5. Brass and Woodwinds should find that they are to accent the accents, and in most cases help build up to the accents. Their place is most effective when they play where there are no vocal parts, but they don't have to be totally reserved to those areas.

You will have to determine which one should be presented first. Whether it is the total Vision then the Individual Purpose and Place or visa versa. I believe that the word of God clearly lets us know that we can do seemingly impossible things, if we will do our part in His plan.

The foundational scripture for the understanding of our place and function is found in **Romans 12:1-8**.