

U2

bigger- than Bono

Two words: U2. (actually, not really two words...more like two letters..well one letter and a number. Anyway...) Last Sunday a friend and I ventured up to East Lansing, Michigan to watch U2 perform under a giant green spaceship--see *the picture above*. (I could keep trying to explain, but you really had to be there.)

As I was watching, I was struck by a few things. Bono really is a bigger-than-life rock star. The Edge is a guitar legend. But even with those two elements, they couldn't achieve their sound without the killer low-end being laid down by the bassist, Adam Clayton, and the driving-force drum work of Larry Mullen, Jr. On their own, all four would likely have decent levels of success (*that's an understatement for Bono*). But together, they've created something greater than the sum of the four parts. When they take to the stage, they come as *U2*, not Bono, The Edge, Larry and Adam.

There's a word that sums this idea up: *synergy*.

When our team takes to the stage, are we 7 – 10 instrumentalists/vocalists who happen to be playing/singing the same song on the same stage? Or are we a band? Do we have synergy? When we combine all the different parts, do we create something that rises above the sum of those parts?

Here are some elements of creating something greater:

1. Humility – the role that I fill might be more prominent than others, but that doesn't make me more important.

2. Perspective – the part that I play might be less important than others. But that doesn't make it (or me) less valuable. (*Remember: often, it's the little things that set the music apart.*)

3. Intentionality – I'm not indispensable, but I'm going to prepare like it all hinges on me.

4. Surrendered Passion – I love doing this. But I will lay it down if it's best for the team, or the Lord otherwise asks me to.

5. Mutual Submission – I will give up what I think are my rights (*my position on the team, my spot in the schedule, my volume in the monitor*) if it serves the goals and vision of team.

6. Truth-telling – I will seek to tell the truth in love, confronting poor behavior that diminishes the team and does not give the greatest glory to God.

7. Unbridled Encouragement – I will work to make gratitude and praise for my team members the quickest thing that rolls off my tongue.

For each element, can you read the statement that follows and say, "Yes this is true of me"? I know I've failed each of those at different times. And for a few of them, I mess up more often than not. But to build a team that rises above its natural talents and personalities is going to take work. It's going to require us working towards a "Yes, by God's grace, this is true of me" for each element.

And that's when we'll be more than a collection of musicians playing the same song on the same stage. We'll be a band, a true team. Bigger than us and able to give greater glory to God.

by Jon Nicol (jon@worshipteamcoach.com)
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