

LESSON 8

The Law of the BAD APPLE

“Rotten Attitudes Ruin A Team”

- Talent is not enough to bring success to a team.
- Good attitudes among players do not guarantee a team's success, but bad attitudes guarantee its failure. Positive attitude is important and we should place a strong emphasis to develop it in ourselves.

Effect of Attitudes on Team:

- **Attitudes have the power and ability to lift up or tear down a team.** The winner's edge is not in a gifted birth, in a high IQ or in talent. The winners' edge is in attitude not aptitude. To have outstanding results, you need good people with great talent and awesome attitudes.
- **An Attitude compounds when exposed to others.** Attitude of a person in a team is contagious. If he is teachable, others might display similar characteristics. Others might imitate him for his good working ethics.
- **Bad attitudes compounds faster than good ones.** Negative attitudes easily could poison good ones. Separate the good ones from the bad ones and don't mix them together.
- **Attitudes are Subjective, so identifying a wrong on can be difficult.** Someone with bad attitudes may not do anything illegal or unethical, yet his attitude may be ruining the team just the same.
- **Rotten Attitude left alone, ruin everything.** Bad attitudes must be addressed. They cause resentment and even causing division in the team. They will never go in their own without being addressed properly. If you leave a bad apple in a barrel of good apples, you'll always end up with a barrel of rotten apples.

Team thoughts: Your attitude determines the team's attitude.

Becoming better team member:

- Do you: think the team won't be able to get along with you? Secretly believe that the success of the team is because of you? Bring up past wrongs of teammates? You need to check your attitude always.
- Talk to teammates and find out whether your attitude is damaging to the team.

Becoming a better team leader:

- If you think that you have a bad apple on your team, you need to take the person aside and discuss the situation with him. Doing it the right way is important.
- As you approach him, share what you observed but give him the benefit of the doubt. Assume that your perception might be wrong and you want clarification. Then, if your

perception is wrong, you have not done any damage. If your perception is right, give him clear expectations and an opportunity to change. Then hold him accountable. If he changes, it's a win for the team. If he doesn't, remove him from the team because you can be sure he'll affect the rest.

