

Team Spirit

What happens to a small flame when covered by a wet towel? IT GOES OUT!

What happens to a sports team that has some people involved that began complaining and criticizing? The Unity is destroyed.

These two separate illustrations talk about a natural consequence of behavior/actions. Let's look at these illustrations:

1. The Small Flame

- A. Fire serves at least two purposes: light and heat. Both of these are helpful. Light to help us see and heat to cook with.
- B. To cover the flame would destroy the purposes that it serves.

2. The Sports Team

- A. Sports teams are created to compete. To put one person/team against another person/team to determine the superior.
- B. To begin to complain or criticize takes away from the effectiveness of the team.

Both of these illustrations demonstrates a smothering effect. Read *Ephesians 4:29-30*.

What does it tell us to do?

. . . Edify (encourage) one another in words

What does it tell us not to do?

. . . Let no unwholesome word pass from your mouth.

What is the effect?

Positive - Build up believers, **Negative** - Grieve the Holy Spirit

Team spirit comes from encouraging each other.

Illustration: The strength of two oxen in one yoke pulling in the same direction is greater than the strength of each oxen added together. Unity matters! One team with good team spirit will be able to out-excel another team with a spirit of dissension.