

## CHAPTER 6: DEPENDABLE Teams Go to 'Go-To' Players

In this chapter, the team of caregivers that support Christopher Reeve is highlighted to illustrate the importance of dependence within the team.

Maxwell states that we know the ones on our team that we *can* depend on. The essence of dependability is described by the following attributes:

- Pure Motives  
Team members that continually put themselves and their agenda ahead of what's best for the team have proven themselves undependable.
- Responsibility  
Dependable team members have a strong sense of responsibility. This attribute indicates that team members *want* to be dependable.
- Sound Thinking  
Dependability must be coupled with good judgment to be of real value to the team.
- Consistent Contribution  
Dependable team members are consistent. Consistency takes depth of character.

As with any reflection, Maxwell recommends that we examine our motives, discover what our word is worth, and find someone that can hold us accountable.

- Are our motives aligned with the team?
- Ask teammates to rate how reliable we are...on a scale of one to ten. If the average answer is below nine or ten, he suggests that we write down our commitments and follow up on our commitment to them.
- Find someone who we respect to help us keep our commitments.

### Comments:

We each live busy life...juggling home, family, and work. To take a minute and reflect on our dependability as a team member is worthwhile. Our 21C network is a unique team. I believe we all are dependent on one another to continue the on-going efforts to provide enhanced programming for the children and families we serve within our respective communities.

As I headed for school this morning, the news was broadcasting that Christopher Reeve had died. His support group (team) WAS dependable and enabled him to continue activities after his injury – a noteworthy example!

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