

Why I Don't Join Committees

Written by Steve Marr

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Committees and local boards are always looking for new members who will go to their meetings and share the workload. Most of the time, I decline to join committees. However, I may offer to assist or cooperate with a committee in a specific way. I just don't have to go to endless meetings.

When someone does ask me to be on a committee, I ask several questions. What do you want me to contribute to the group? How are the meetings conducted? Do you follow an agenda? Is there a time budget for the meeting? Are there clear objectives for the gathering? {readmore} Some label folks who won't participate on their boards as selfish. However, if I accepted every committee or organizational leadership role offered to me; I would have little time for other activities. I don't think this is what the Lord would have me do.

Group decisions are frequently better than what individuals can make, but not always. King Solomon wrote, "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." (Proverbs 15:22, NIV). In another place, the Bible shares an example of group action which didn't turn out very good. "Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate." (Mark 15:1, NIV)

I have participated in some committees and boards and continue to do so. However, I do it only after careful prayer and with the belief that my participation will make a significant difference in the group. Additionally, I ask myself: Is there another way I can effectively support the organization?

Remember that whenever you say yes to a committee commitment; you must say no to something else. Make sure that if you decide to serve on a committee, it is the one that the Lord agrees is a place you can make a positive contribution.