

Four Things The Beatles Teach Us About Teamwork

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Published on September 15, 2014 | Featured in: [Leadership & Management](#)



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Many people recognize the Beatles as the most famous band of all time. What many of us forget, however, is that they were also a true working group. For a decade, the Beatles showed up to work, made important contributions, collaborated with each other, and oversaw the difficult

decisions of being on a team. That sounds a little like a business organization. Although I can't imagine any of them spending time in a cubicle.

Toward the end of their career the Beatles faced a crisis within the band; a management crisis. Due to several factors, their partnership was beginning to dissolve. After years of great success, playing the role of a Beatle was starting to feel like, well, merely a job. Workplace conflict increased in the studio. Large egos demanded more control. And one member threatened to quit. How did they respond to this crisis? They put aside their differences and rallied behind each other to create what is arguably their best album: *Abbey Road*. Here are 4 lessons we can learn from the Fab Four about teamwork in a challenging environment:

Recognize Your Strengths- The Beatles had talent to burn. But that talent wasn't concentrated in one person. Each band member brought a unique skillset to the table. On *Abbey Road*, Paul McCartney created beautiful melodies, John Lennon's songwriting prowess continued to inspire, George Harrison's guitar work was top-notch. And Ringo Starr's drumming was superb. Individually, each talent was impressive. Combined, however, their efforts yielded a masterpiece that only the four of them could have created.

Like the Beatles, we all work in diverse groups that contain different personalities and talents. Imagine what could be achieved if each member was allowed to focus on their best skill and were given an outlet to make a contribution?

Show The Love- In some work groups, trouble can arise even when things appear to be going well. Late in their career together, the Beatles had been on top for so long that their success began to be assumed. A certain complacency had set in. And that led to another problem: They began taking each other for granted. During one challenging recording session, Ringo left the band and threatened to quit. Although he was a member of one of the most popular, successful, and interesting groups of all time, none of it mattered because he was feeling undervalued inside that team. After convincing