



Together Strong: We > Me (Part 3)

How We Can Come Together and Stop the Fighting That Tears Us Apart

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September 18, 2022

SERIES TEXT: "Where two or three gather TOGETHER in my name, there I am with them."
- Jesus, Matthew 18:20 BSB

BIG IDEA: We're better TOGETHER when tied to Jesus, "for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12 NLT).

"I thought if I could put the praying people back together, I could put the world back together." - Little Girl

- WE are all members of one body... (Ephesians 4:25)
- Let US consider how WE may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting TOGETHER, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another... (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- OUR Father..." - The Lord's Prayer

"Americans often think of faith as personal – and it is – but Scripture also makes it clear we are in this TOGETHER."
- Dr. John Farquhar Plake, Director of Ministry Intelligence for American Bible Society

HOW WE CAN COME TOGETHER AND STOP THE FIGHTING THAT TEARS US APART

L: Listen

- Take note: Everyone... should be quick to LISTEN, slow to speak and slow to become angry. James 1:19 NIV
- How well do you listen to others?

Jesus, please help. May we come together and stop the fighting that tears us apart by listening to one another.

O: Observe

- Whoever does not LOVE their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 1 John 4:20 NIV
- How well do you see the people around you – observing their hurts, fears and anxieties?
- "Let me give you a new command: LOVE ONE ANOTHER. In the same way I loved you, you LOVE ONE ANOTHER. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples – when they see the LOVE you have for EACH OTHER." - Jesus, John 13:34-35 MSG

Jesus, please help. May we come together and stop the fighting that tears us apart by observing one another.

V: Value

- Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God. Proverbs 14:31 NIV

"The world is hurting, but something can always be done. Keep doing the next kind thing."
- Hal Donaldson, Convoy of Hope Founder

- Do you *value* people regardless of what they can or cannot do for you?

Jesus, please help. May we come together and stop the fighting that tears us apart by valuing one another.

E: Encourage

- Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is HELPFUL FOR BUILDING OTHERS UP according to their needs, that it may BENEFIT those who listen.
Ephesians 4:29 NIV
- On a scale of 1-10, how encouraging and helpful are your words?
- When we live upset & offended, the resultant arguing, disputing & fighting look a lot like vomiting "... hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions..."
Galatians 5:20 NIV
- If you have been spewing negative and unwholesome words, check what your heart has been feeding on. "For," Jesus says, "out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks"
Luke 6:45 BSB

Jesus, please help. May we come together and stop the fighting that tears us apart by encouraging each other.

"My prayer is... that all of them [Seattle] may be ONE, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us SO THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be ONE AS WE ARE ONE: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to COMPLETE UNITY TO LET THE WORLD KNOW..."

- Jesus, John 17:20a-23

Who is someone I can encourage this week by uniting in prayer: _____

Jesus