

Fellow-laborers in Christ

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Companionship or Isolation?

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- Marriage
 - Genesis 2:18
- Family
 - 1 Peter 3:8
- Friends
 - 1 Samuel 18:1; 2 Samuel 1:26
 - Proverbs 18:24
- The church
 - 1 Timothy 3:15
 - Ephesians 2:19
- Proverbs 18:1

Shared Labor & Shared Rejoicing

- Ecclesiastes 4:9
- Complimentary work
 - 1 Corinthians 2:5-9
- Mutual rejoicing
 - John 4:36
- Causes growth for edifying
 - Ephesians 4:16

The blessing of complimentary labor and rejoicing together is had in working together in the Lord....

A shared labor and rejoicing together that cannot be had in isolation.

But it is gained in following God's plan for Christians working together in the church.

Aid and lifting up

- Ecclesiastes 4:10
- Bear burdens
 - Galatians 6:2-3
- Restore – Lift up when fallen
 - Galatians 6:1
 - James 5:19-20
- Prayers when sick
 - James 5:16
- Physical needs
 - 1 John 3:16-18
 - Acts 4:32-36
- Consider the power of words
 - Ezra 10:4-5
 - Proverbs 27:6

There is aid and lifting up to be had
in working together in the Lord....

Aid and lifting up that is not had in
isolation.

But it is gained in following God's
plan for Christians working together
in the church.

Comfort and Consolation

- Ecclesiastes 4:11
- Prayers in times of pain and sickness
 - James 5:14
- Comfort in tribulation
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 5, 6
- Care and concern
 - 1 Corinthians 16:17-18
- Expressed in supplying needs
 - Philippians 4:18; 2:25
 - Acts 27:3
- Expressed in words of comfort
 - 1 Corinthians 14:3
 - Proverbs 27:9
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:8, 14

There is great comfort and consolation
gained in working together in the
Lord....

Words and deeds of comfort and
consolation that are not enjoyed in
isolation.

But it is gained in following God's plan
for Christians working together in the
church.

Strength

- Ecclesiastes 4:12
- Needed
 - Acts 14:22; 18:23
 - Acts 11:26
 - 1 Corinthians 10:12
- When united – “as one man”
 - Nehemiah 8:1
 - Ephesians 4:16; Colossians 2:19
- A stronger force against the enemy
 - Nehemiah 4:16-20
 - Philippians 1:27
- Through edification and growth
 - Proverbs 27:17
 - 1 Corinthians 14:3
 - Colossians 3:16
 - Hebrews 10:24-25

**There is strength gained in
working together in the Lord....**

**A strength that is not gained in
isolation.**

**But it is gained in following
God's plan for Christians working
together in the church.**

Working together in the church

- Shared, complimentary labor and rejoicing together
- Aid and lifting up
- Comfort and consolation
- Strength

Proverbs 18:1

“A man who isolates himself seeks his
own desire;
He rages against all wise judgment.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

“Two are better than one,
Because they have a good reward for their labor.

For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.

But woe to him who is alone when he falls,

For he has no one to help him up.

Again, if two lie down together, they will keep
warm;

But how can one be warm alone?

Though one may be overpowered by another, two
can withstand him.

And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Romans 12:4-5

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

Your brethren need you

Your need your brethren