

All That Believed Were Together

by John Isaac Edwards

One reason the church grew in the first-century is because of their togetherness! Acts 2:44 reports, “And all that believed were together...” The Scriptures often emphasize togetherness. Let’s take a look.

1) **Planted Together.** “...we have been planted together in the likeness of his death...” (Rom. 6:5). This occurred when we were “...buried with him by baptism into death...” (Rom. 6:4).

2) **Quickened Together.** Ephesians 2:5 and Colossians 2:13 discuss how God “...quickened us together with Christ...” To be “quickened” is to be made alive spiritually, as opposed to being “...dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1).

3) **Raised Up To Sit Together.** Ephesians 2:6 continues, “And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” This heavenly sitting is where we are “...blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).

4) **Fitly Framed Together.** As a contractor puts together a building, God the divine architect (Eph. 3:10-11),

has made us a “...building fitly framed together...” (Eph. 2:21). “In whom (that’s Christ) ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Eph. 2:22). Are you a stone in this spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5)?

5) **Fitly Joined Together.** In the unity and growth chapter, Paul penned, “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Eph. 4:16). As one’s fingers, hands, arms, toes, feet and legs are joined together, the church is to “...be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10).

6) **Assemble Together.** The book of Acts often finds Christians coming together. They had a place where they assembled together (Acts 4:31). When Peter was in prison, “...many were gathered together praying” (Acts 12:12). When Paul and Barnabas returned from their preaching trip, they “...gathered the church together...” and “...rehearsed all that God had done with

them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles” (Acts 14:27). “Upon the first day of the week...” the disciples at Troas “...came together to break bread...” and “...Paul preached unto them...” (Acts 20:7). Hebrews 10:25 instructs, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...”

7) **Comforted Together.** Paul longed to see his brethren, “...that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me” (Rom. 1:12). How comforting to be with “...them that have obtained like precious faith with us...” (2 Pet. 1:1)! Even when we feel that a piece of ourselves is missing when our loved ones are taken from us, we are able to “...comfort one another with these words” (1 Th. 4:18). 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”

8) **Strive Together.** As a team of horses pull together, rather than against each other, members of the body of Christ are taught to “...strive together...” (Rom. 15:30). Paul urged the Philippians, “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:

that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27).

9) Labourers Together. Paul declared, “For we are labourers together with God...” (1 Cor. 3:9). Paul and Apollos are a good example of this togetherness in labour as Paul stated, “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase” (1 Cor. 3:6). If you want to see the increase, get rid of all envying, strife and division, and labour together in planting and watering the seed, which “...is the word of God” (Lk. 8:11).

10) Tempered Together. When the Holy Spirit set forth the church of Christ as the body of Christ, He revealed, “For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another” (1 Cor. 12:24-25). We are blended together, as an artist

blends together a multitude of colors to form a magnificent painting.

11) Helping Together. Brethren were entreated, “Ye also helping together by prayer for us...” (2 Cor. 1:11). One way we help together is by praying “...one for another...” as “...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (Jas. 5:16). Make a point to bring the names of fellow-saints before the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16).

12) Followers Together. Paul appealed to the Philippian saints, “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample” (Phil. 3:17). To the Corinthians he said, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). In fact we are commanded, “... withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us...” (2 Th. 3:6-7).

13) Knit Together. The Holy Spirit used a textile term to describe our relationship as

the people of God. “That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love...” (Col. 2:2). Again it is written, “And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God” (Col. 2:19). Would you like to see the church increase? Increase the love!

14) Caught Up Together. When the Lord comes again, we will be caught up together. Writing saints concerned about their loved ones who had died in the Lord, Paul penned, “...the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together...” (1 Th. 4:16-17). What a reunion!

15) Glorified Together. Romans 8:17 talks about children of God being “... glorified together...” with the Lord.

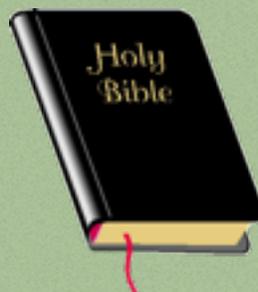
16) Live Together. Christ died for us that “...we should live together with him” (1 Th. 5:10). What is your attitude toward togetherness?

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