

“TOGETHER” ...or... “ALL-IN”

Mission Reminder Sunday 2024

April 21, 2024

"Growing, Together, for the Glory of God"

The Concept of "Together"

...It has unique & non-optional presence in Scripture

- The family of God; the Nation of Israel; the Household of Faith
...The Massive Prayer Request of the Savior—Jn 17:9, 11 “⁹ I am praying for them. ... ¹¹ I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ... ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.”
- There is Function & Form that gets defined by an understanding of "Together" —“The BODY of Christ” (a Synergistic, Cooperative Union of Diverse Members!)

...“Together” has fallen on Tough Times!

- The Rise & Triumph of the Exalted Self ...Hyper-Individualism ...Self-preferences & Self-Priorities ... Centralizing “Personal Identity” as One’s Life Definer
*...These are NOT merely vague philosophical ideas ...they are Today's Social MUSCLE MEMORY!
They are in our lives like REFLEXES!*

The Php 1 Mandate! ...a Description of Being "ALL-IN"!!!

Php 1:1 *...to all the saints, the elders, and the deacons* [the variety that are TOGETHER]

v. 3, 5 ... “I thank my god in all my remembrance of you ... ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel”

v. 6 ... “...he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion”

v. 12 ... “...what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel”

v. 22 ... “If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me.”

v. 25 ... “...I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,”

...These verses are expressions of the concept of—GROWING! ...The Ministry of the Church—Is characterized by ...The Concept of “Advancing” the Gospel; the Concept of “fruitful ministry” (Gospel spread ...deeper transformation)

Consider the Realities of “Growing” (In this world)

...Growing is in an Active WAR!

1 Peter 5:8-9 *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

2Cor 2:11 ¹¹ *so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.*

Eph 6:11-12 *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Acts 20:29-30 *I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.*

...Growing involves GROANING!

Rom 8:18, 22 *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ... ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.*

...Growing on a Path of TRIBULATION! ...

John 16:33 *"...In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

...Growing involves MYSTERIOUS POWER! ...

2 Cor 3:17-18 *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

"GROWING (Movement, Advance, Transformation, Freedom, Progress in the Faith) ... **is NOT a task of casual child's play!"** ...**Growth & Movement & Progress are outcomes that need great favor and power!**

...THEN—Paul Features—TOGETHER! ...Php 1:27

Consider being 'Together'—"ALL-IN"

Php 1:27 *Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,*

...In the midst of all of Paul's "Movement & Advance & Progress" language—he tucks this Priority and Admonition! ...a mandate for the Philippians to be "TOGETHER"—"ALL-IN!!!"

"standing firm" ... in the face of everything that makes personal life ...AND... Church Life—HARD!!

"in one spirit" ...

"with one mind" ...

... the "ONE Spirit & ONE-Mind" is NOT trying to be "One with ME!!!" ...It is calling ME to Be ONE with the Purpose of God!!

"striving side by side" ... *synathleō; ... athlēō in 2 Tim. 2:5 suggests the need for exertion, sacrifice, and discipline, synathléō in Phil. 1:27; 4:3 carries the idea of striving, suffering, and working together. (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament)*

"Paul describes the work that unites the church in his phrase for the faith of the gospel. Christians are united when they fight side by side with one soul for the faith of the gospel." **Walter Hansen**, "The Letter to the Philippians" (Pillar NT Comm)

Heart-to-Heart—Am I “ALL-IN”?

- Perhaps I’m not “ALL-IN” because I’ve built a manner of life that is TOO MUCH on a Different Mission!
- Perhaps I’m not “All-In” because I’ve prioritized “like-mindedness” in some secondary categories.
- Perhaps I’m not “All-In” because people have hurt me or disappointed me.
- Perhaps I’m not “All-In” because I’ve become deeply impacted by a sense of “suspicion”

Am I Only “All-In” in my Intentions—but not my Actions?

- Am I “All In” FINANCIALLY?”
- Am I “All in PRAYERFULLY”
- Am I “All-In” in my Own Growth & Transformation ...Mortifying sin! Putting off & Putting On!
- Am I “All-In” in Stewarding the Gifts (INFLUENCE) God has Placed in my life

If I’m Not “ALL-IN” ...Why Not?

...What do I need to do in order to change the manner of my “Togetherness”?

PAUL: “Dear LCC, Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are **standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,**