HOW CHRISTIANS CAN COOPERATE, WORK, AND GET ALONG WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION
1. One of the problems of the Christian is HOW to get along with other Christians -- Phil. 4:2; I Cor. 1:11
2. One cannot be a Christian who does not know how to work and cooperate with other Christians.
3. Man alone is a very helpless being -- Eccl. 4: 9 - 12; Gen. 2: 18
   (1) Man becomes strong by relating himself to forces outside himself.
4. Man relates himself to natural power in the world by the use of STEAM and ELECTRICITY and MACHINERY multiplies his strength.
5. Christians also increase their spiritual power by COOPERATING and WORKING TOGETHER -- Acts 2:44; Heb. 10: 24
6. The local congregation is GOD'S COOPERATIVE.

I. CHRISTIANS MUST WORK TOGETHER
1. We are workers together with God -- 2 Cor. 6:1; I Cor. 3:9
2. Paul teaches cooperative work by using the figure of the human body -- I Cor. 12: 14 - 27
   (1) Each member of Christ’s body should supply his part -- Eph. 4:16; Rom. 12:4
   (2) The story of the blind man and the crippled man who wanted to go to a certain place -- the crippled man got on the blind man's back.
3. Solomon teaches the wisdom of cooperative work by referring to the Locust -- Prov. 30:27
4. Solomon said, "A threefold cord is not quickly broken." Eccl. 4:12
   (1) A small cord will not lift much weight, but several cords twisted together become exceedingly strong.

II. REASONS WHY SOME FAIL TO COOPERATE
1. A lack of oneness hinders cooperation -- Phil. 3:16; Phil. 1:27; Psa. 133:1; Acts 4:32; Rom. 12:16; I Cor. 1:10
2. Paul tells us that two contrasted dispositions keep Christians from cooperating:
   (1) SELF-DEPRECIATION -- I Cor. 12: 15 - 16
      1. Some members fail to be of any use in the church because they think that they do not amount to anything.
      2. It is true that our talents vary, but God will hold each responsible for what he can do, whether it be small or large -- Matt. 25: 14 - 30
   (2) DEPRECIATION OF OTHER CHRISTIANS -- I Cor. 12: 21 - 22
      1. Each Christian should appreciate and work with all other Christians -- Phil. 2: 3 - 4
3. A self-willed spirit.
   (1) Trouble will come when a person is set on having his way, regardless of the wishes of others -- III John 9

III. HOW CHRISTIANS CAN GET ALONG WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS
1. By showing love for one another
   (1) We are commanded to love one another -- John 13:34 - 35; I John 3:23
2. Be sincere in their love one for another -- I John 3:18; Rom. 12:9
(3) Christians should continue loving one another -- Heb. 13:1

2. By cautiously dealing with their faults -- Gal. 6:1; II Tim. 2:24 - 26

3. By avoiding gossip about them.
(1) Christians should recognize the evil of gossip -- Prov. 16:28; 17:9; 18:8; Lev. 19:16
(2) Christians should NOT speak evil one of another -- I Pet. 2:1
(3) Christians are to avoid those who gossip -- Prov. 20:19

4. We can get along with other Christians by ministering to them.
(1) Visit the sick -- Matt. 25:36; James 1:27
(2) Sympathize with those in sorrow -- Rom. 12:15; I Cor. 12:26
(3) Encourage the weak -- I Thess. 5:14; Gal. 6:2

5. By forgiving those who trespass against us.
(1) We should be willing to forgive others without limit -- Luke 17:3 - 4
(2) Matt. 18: 15 - 17

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