

Better Together at FBC!



Dave and I love to relax and reflect at the end of the day by enjoying the warmth of a campfire in our backyard. On one such evening, he had the fire burning brightly when one of the logs suddenly fell away from the main firewood. Even though it had been burning very well, it was only a matter of a few minutes when the fire from the

fallen log went out and the embers started losing their glow. He got up and put the log back with the others and it started blazing once again. Our peaceful evening was interrupted with a thunder roll as the sky darkened, the wind began blowing and rain started coming down. As we ran for cover, I thought the fire would die out, but to my surprise it kept on burning. Because we live in the city, by-laws require a fire not to be left unattended. We had to get an umbrella, stand out in the rain, and separate the logs for the fire to be extinguished.

What a good object lesson for the body of Christ. During this time of gathering restrictions and social distancing, I believe we have learned some life-long lessons regarding the support, encouragement, and value of relationships. While some may behave as though they are an island unto themselves, the simple truth is that we need one another. All our shortcomings and failures combined with the complexities of life only reinforce the truth that we need one other as we journey toward eternal life with Christ.

The need for community can be pronounced among those who have determined to intentionally impact their families, co-workers, neighbors, and acquaintances for Jesus. The more committed we become to walking after Christ, the more apparent it becomes that far too many feel alone and discouraged in their journey. Satan would have it so; for in this fight for the spiritual lives of others, what better way would there be to stifle the faith of a loving disciple than through discouragement and isolation? But God instructs us to be united, not fragmented, in our faith and to stand strong against the evil one as the battle rages for the spiritual lives of those we know and love.

The wisdom of God becomes imperative as we relate not only to our Creator but also to one another. In the local church setting, God's Word teaches us to "not neglect to meet

together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:25) The whole idea of meeting together is for “us drawing near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.” And how do we stir up one another? A glance through the one another (allelon) verses gives us plenty of ammunition. Used 93 times in the New Testament, God teaches us on how to relate to others: love one another (John 13:34), honour and be devoted to one another (Ro 12:10), live in harmony (Ro 12:16), build up (Ro 14:19, I Thess 5:11), admonish one another (Ro 15:14, Col 3:16), greet one another (Ro 16:16), care for one another (I Cor 12:25), serve one another (Gal 5:13), bear one another’s burdens (Gal 6:2), forgive one another (Eph 4:2, 32), teach one another (Col 3:16), encourage one another (I Thess 5:11), exhort one another (Heb 3:13) ... just to name a few.

By ourselves, it is all too easy to quickly lose sight of the good things the Lord is accomplishing through us as we reach out to others. Just like the lone log from the campfire, our passion, devotion, and dedication to impacting future generations for Christ can be dimmed by the turbulence of life and rob us of the peace of God that brings calmness of soul.

During the last few weeks, we have all seen the slogan, “We’re in this together.” Are we better together? Yes! As we look forward to gathering once again to praise and worship our Saviour, let’s do that with a heart full of anticipation of all the things God wants to accomplish through us at First Baptist Church. Praise Him from Whom all blessings flow. Soli Deo gloria!